



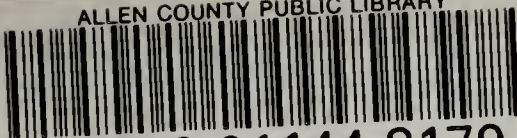
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*“Honest labour bears a lovely face”*

—THOMAS DEKKER





# *The Abrens Story*



*The Abrens Story*

BY MARGARET M. BRIDWELL

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# Foreword

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This is the Ahrens story.

It is a family story which my father, Theodore Ahrens, urged that I assemble from data which he and his sister, Minna, carefully and lovingly collected over a period of many years.

It concerns the lives and deeds of many generations of Ahrensens, both in their native Germany, which they loved, and later in America, which they loved even more, and is a chronicle of labor and achievement through which there is proudly woven a bright thread of family solidarity.

In carrying out my father's wish that this story be written, I, who was his most ardent admirer, feel that it is both fitting and proper that the book end with a sketch of his life.

*Elsie Ahrens Lang*

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY  
APRIL, 1954

W.D. Payton - 17.50



## *The Ahrens Story*

AUGUST 14, 1769 was registration day for the landlords and residents of the little village of Poppenbittel near Hamburg, Germany. Among the registrants on that day was Joachim Andreas Ahrens, forty-one, village magistrate and landowner, whose entry is the first known record of the Ahrens family. He listed his wife, Anna Magdalena Schmidt, twenty-nine, from Othmarschen and his children, Jochim, twelve; Carstens Hinrich, ten; Catharina Margaretha, eight; Anna Dorothea, six; Hans August, three; and Claus, the baby, six months old.

It is probable that Poppenbittel had been the home of the Ahrens family for many years because there also registered on August 14, 1769, Hans Ahrens, Katner and lumber overseer, fifty-nine (who well may have been the father or brother of Jochim Andreas Ahrens); Herman Ahrens, a teacher; and Claus and Detlauf Ahrens, both fifty, simply listed as cottagers. Perhaps these last named three were brothers of Hans, the lumber overseer. The similarity of names certainly indicates close family relationship.

The next record of Joachim Andreas Ahrens is twenty-nine years later, on April 29, 1798, when he, then seventy years old, and still a resident of Poppenbittel, was a witness to the baptism of his grandson, Hans Jochim Ahrens, the son of Claus, of Wellingsbittel.

There is but one further record of this landowner and magistrate of Poppenbittel, whose family name was to become synonymous with public health and sanitation throughout the world, and that is that he married a second time, Elizabeth Von Pein, from Wedel.

Because Joachim Andreas Ahrens was a village magistrate and landowner it is evident that he was an honest and trustworthy



citizen, and it is also evident that the Ahrens family, including this magistrate and landowner, a lumber overseer and a teacher, were industrious.

The little Claus, who was half a year old on August 14, 1769, grew up and became a laborer in Wellingsbittel, a village close by Poppenbittel. He married Catherine von Elm and became the father of two sons, Hans Jochim Ahrens, born April 25, 1798 and Jochim Andreas Ahrens, who was born about 1800.<sup>(1)</sup>

The baptismal record of Hans Jochim Ahrens shows that Catherine von Elm died before July 4, 1816:

1816  
Ebbesen

#### HANS JOCHIM AHRENS

legitimate son of the resident Claus Ahrens of Wellingsbittel and the now deceased Catharina, born von Elm, was born, according to the baptismal register A. D. 1798 on the 25th of April and baptized 1798 the 29th of April. His witnesses were 1. Joachim Andres Ahrens 2. Hans Kahl, both from Poppenbittel 3. Geha von Elm, from Braunfeld.

In the year 1814 on the 2nd Whitsun holiday he was confirmed and partook of the Lord's Supper. Shortly thereafter moved to Hamburg, which all attested by the pastor from

Bergstedt on July 4, 1816.

C. Fr. Henningsen.<sup>(2)</sup>

There are no further records of Claus Ahrens, nor of this son, Hans Jochim Ahrens, who moved to Hamburg in 1814.

Claus Ahrens' second son, Jochim Andreas Ahrens, also moved to Hamburg, date unknown, and he died there March 3, 1841. He was a laborer and later a postman in that city.

In 1821 Jochim Andreas Ahrens went to work as a packer for the firm of George Behre and Company in Hamburg and soon thereafter made plans to be married. He first, as was the custom in Hamburg in those days, took the oath of citizenship which each Hamburg resident was required to do if he married, resided and paid taxes in that city.

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(1) Some family records confuse Hans Jochim Ahrens and Jochim Andreas Ahrens as one and the same person. However, since the above baptismal record is Hans Jochim Ahrens, and citizenship and marriage records are made out in the name of Jochim Andreas Ahrens, it is more probable that they were two separate persons.

(2) From the family records of Emil von Pein.



### CITIZEN'S OATH <sup>(3)</sup>

I promise and swear in the name of God the Omnipotent, that I shall be faithful to this council and this town, shall endeavor to do the best for it and to avert harm from it to the best of my ability, also never to raise against this council and this town through word or deed, and should I acquire knowledge of something against this council and town I will faithfully report it. I will also willingly pay my yearly income taxes, and also Turkish taxes, additional taxes, custom duty, excise duty, real estate taxes, and whatever else is agreed upon by an honorable council and the citizens.

So God and his Holy Word might help me.

Joachim Andreas Ahrens  
has sworn the above oath

Recorded, Hamburg, the 2nd of May, 1823

G. v. Graffen, Dr.

Jochim was married May 19, 1823 to Elsabe Dorothea Greve, born March 6, 1798 in Nedencamp, Elmshorn, Germany, the daughter of Hinrich Greve and Elsabe Hein.

### MARRIAGE RECORD

St. Nicolai

In the Year 1823 on the 19th of May

Joachim Andreas Ahrens and Miss  
Elsabe Dorothea Greeve were married by

W. N. Freudentheil, Pastor

Hamburg, January 24, 1831

Elsabe and Jochim established their residence at Pferdemark in Hamburg. Jochim, on important occasions, marched with the city militia and guard. He continued to work for Georg Behre and Company until September 9, 1823, when for a slight infraction of rules he was discharged with the following somewhat apologetic letter of recommendation:

### LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

We, the undersigned, Georg Behre and Company attest herewith, truthfully that Joachim Andreas Ahrens since Martinmas 1821 has worked for us faithfully and honestly as a packer and that we only discharge him from our firm because a workingman according to our house rule should not sleep outside the house and intoxicate himself.

---

(3) Copy of this oath of citizenship was sent to Theodore Ahrens, grandson of Jochim Andreas Ahrens by his cousin, Otto Schultz, April 19, 1926.

Since we have every reason to be satisfied with the mentioned Ahrens, both in respect to his work and behavior, we therefore hope that this report might help him to get a good position.

Hamburg, the 9th of September, 1823

(wax seal)

Geo. Behre & Co.

There is a family story that Jochim went to a party on the night of September 8, 1823, did become intoxicated and spent the night with Elsabe to whom he had been married only a few months.

Where Jochim worked between September 9, 1823 and March 3, 1841 when he died, is not known, but he was employed as a postman in Hamburg part of that time.

He and Elsabe became the parents of several children, four of whom left tangible records:

1. Georg Andreas Theodor
2. Joachim N.
3. Lucie
4. Adolph

After the death of Jochim, his wife, Elsabe, continued to live in Hamburg and was living there as late as 1869. <sup>(4)</sup>

The sons of Jochim Andreas Ahrens grew up in a Germany of political unrest. By 1848 Austria held the leading position in the German Confederation and Germany was dominated by the reactionary policies of Metternich. This brought about the liberal Revolution of 1848, which shook all Germany. At the same time Prussia and Austria became engaged in the first Prusso-Danish War with Denmark over the status of Schleswig-Holstein, Prussia's northernmost province, on the border of which was the city of Hamburg where the Ahrens family lived.

These wars and rumors of wars, with their necessary compulsory military services and burdensome taxes, caused many young Germans, in the years 1848 to 1850, to flee their homeland for America, the young land of promise, then bursting its seams in a period of great industrial expansion. Georg Andreas Theodor, Joachim N. and Adolph Ahrens were no exceptions, but all three of them did not come to America at the same time.

Joachim was the first to set foot on American soil and he, according to his marriage certificate, was living in Baltimore in 1849.

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(4) Letter of Theodore Ahrens to his children.



## MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

It is hereby certified that Mr. Joachim N. Ahrens, from Hamburg and Miss Sophia Hill from Hanover solemnly and lawfully on November 12 A. D. 1849 entered into the state of holy matrimony.

Witnesses: Albt. Single & wife

C. G. Weyl

Pastor of the Ev. Luth. Dreisinigkts Church  
in Baltimore

Family tradition is that Joachim N. Ahrens left America and went to Australia some time after 1852, and all trace of him was lost.

Just when Adolph Ahrens left Hamburg for America is not known but it is ironical that, fleeing perhaps from enforced military service in Germany, the "little crooked-legged Adolph" was soon to volunteer his services in the War Between the States, and was to be killed in action fighting for principles he believed to be right in his adopted country.

His letter, written from Camp Hunter's Chapel, Virginia, October 24, 1861, to his mother and sister in Hamburg, shows deep concern for them, and reveals a feeling of family solidarity unshaken by separation and distance. These deep family ties have been manifested by every generation of Ahrensens.

Camp Hunter's Chapel, Oct. 24, 1861

Beloved mother and sister!

Your last letters, so dear to me, dated the 10th of July, I received only last week from Philadelphia, but it had not been possible to send them to me sooner because in Phil. they did not know where we were stationed. Dear mother, I must let you know that *I*, the little crooked legged Adolph, am a soldier, but the crooked legs do not matter I am a good soldier in spite of them. Dear mother, you knew from my last letter that I was without work, and that for 8 months. You might find this impossible but I can tell you that during the last winter and Spring in Philadelphia at least sixty thousand workmen were without work. I want to tell you only about one case, in the shop where I was working there were more than one hundred workmen and the man has had to close his factory because he had too much stock on hand, and that is no fun because the rent goes on and he had to pay two hundred dollars a year. As I have heard he is ruined now and therefore went into bankruptcy. He still owes me twenty-seven dollars but I can't be mad at him for that because he would have paid me if he had been able to, because he was a good man, especially toward his workmen. Dear mother, in Philadelphia I belonged to the Turners, and when in the Spring when war broke out against the Slave states they formed

volunteer regiments everywhere in the North and we Turners were the first ones in Philadelphia to offer our services to the State of Pennsylvania, but were not accepted by the Governor because we demanded good guns and they could not give them to us. Therefore we joined a Volunteer Regiment from New York.

Dear mother, if you put yourselves in my place you can't blame me for going along, first because I had been without work for so long and there were no prospects of finding any, secondly, I was already in debt and had no money to pay them, and thirdly, I must honestly say that as a citizen of the United States, and as a Republican and good patriot I have willingly and joyfully offered my new country my services, and patriotism in the northern states is really great because now besides the few regular troops that the United States had which were stationed mostly in the south and which were betrayed by their officers at the beginning of the war, the North now has an army of about four hundred thousand men, and that really is a lot because these four hundred thousand men are all volunteers. Dear mother, you might have read in the papers in Hamburg about the battle of the 21st of July at Bull Run or Manasses Junction as they call it which proved unlucky for the Northern army since we had to give up the battle as lost but in which the South lost more than the north. Well, mother, I was in that battle. Our brigade which consisted of four German regiments were the last ones on the field since we had to cover the retreat and therefore didn't leave till 12 o'clock at night and then had to march 18 hours to Washington and these German Regiments were the only ones that could still be called regiments. Dear mother, it really was no disgrace that we lost the battle because there were so many hardships. Think of terrible heat, then nothing to eat but a few crackers, water hardly to be had except for some water that ran across the road here and there, therefore our soldiers had to die of thirst. Then our German regiments were worst off in these respects and because the day before the battle we had been on outpost duty and therefore had been on our feet for three days and so it really was glorious that we could march into Washington as a (closed) regiment. Now we are much better off but it still is no fun to be a soldier here because it already is very cold here and the tents give one little protection and then when one is on outpost duty where we lie under the sky on the cold earth but don't worry on that account about me dear mother and sister, because so far I am well and in good humor and I hope to stay that way. Dear mother, I am enclosing two pictures, on one picture are our doctors and I am standing on the side with my gun in my hand. These doctors are good friends of mine. On the other picture are my closer friends in the Company and will recognize me sitting there. Dear mother, I have not heard from Theodor since last Xmas and I have written him three letters, since I am a soldier, but our Post connections from the camp to the west are so bad that I can't but think that the letters have been lost. Dear mother, when you write me again write to the same address as before to Philadelphia. I will always let them know where I am and so I hope soon to have a letter



from you. Right now we are camping in Virginia about 10 miles south of Washington, but next week we will have to go out farther on outpost duty. I stand with the 29th Regiment from New York Volunteers but the German Regiments are all here together on orders of the German Division General Blenker.

Dear Lucie, a few words for you, don't be worried because I am a soldier in the war. I know that our good mother will be fearful for me and I think she has enough worries and therefore I beg you and Carl to give her strength and I will answer your next letter as soon as possible. Dear Lucie, I would have liked to have written a few lines to your Carl but right now it is impossible because I have no paper and I asked my Captain for this one. Greet and kiss your Carl from me and soon I will write him too. Dear mother and sister, greet all acquaintances and friends from me. Hearty greetings to all of you, from your son and brother who loves you sincerely

Adolph Ahrens

The only one of the sons of Jochim Andreas Ahrens whose exact date of birth is known was Georg Andreas Theodor, whose baptismal record is recorded in Haupt Kirche, St. Jacobi in Hamburg:

Birth Certificate

Nr. 26

Extract

From the Baptismal Register of the  
Haupt Kirche St. Jacobi  
in Hamburg

Year 1825      Page 251      Nr. 320

on the 23rd of May in the year 1825

JOCHIM ANDREAS AHRENS

native from Wellingsbuttel, Occupation, Laborer

Residence: Pferdemarkt (Horse Market) and  
his wife

DOROTHEA ELSABE nee GREFFE

native from Elmshorn

legitimate son born on the 28th of April

at 11¼ A.M. in the year 1825,

baptized by Pastor Kinhardt and given the  
name of

GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR

Witnesses were

1. George Behre <sup>5</sup>
2. Jacob Andreas Waitz from Alhona
3. Dorothea Peterson, born Neffe

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(5) It is evident that Jochim Andreas Ahrens and George Behre remained friends in spite of his dismissal from the firm of Georg Behre and Company in 1823.

Issued in Hamburg April 9, 1924  
The accuracy of this extract is attested by the  
signature and the printed seal  
The keeper of records  
John Schulz

Like his brothers, Georg Andreas Theodor, or Theodor, as he liked to be called, also dreamed of America. Perhaps the teachers in the school at Hamburg, where he went until he was thirteen years old, planted the seed of this dream in the heart of the impressionable young boy who was later to contribute so much to the welfare and progress of the new country across the sea. Theodor made the most of his years of schooling in Hamburg; there he learned to spell, to write, and to figure, and, what he liked most of all, to read.

When Theodor reached the age of thirteen he felt that it was time for him to start learning a trade, for at that time, only the sons of the very rich did not live by the sweat of their brows and the skills of their hands. These skills were learned by serving for years as apprentices under masters who knew nothing of labor laws, and whose hours were long and rules of conduct hard and exacting. The trade which Theodor chose was that of a locksmith, the learning of which involved work at the forge, the vise, the lathe, the handling of metals and other intricacies of mechanics. For several years he worked as an apprentice in a machine factory in Hamburg and traveled in Germany, Sweden and Denmark as a journeyman, perfecting himself in his trade.

In 1846 Theodor was called to military duty but in order to finish his apprenticeship he bought a substitute and continued his travels, working in Hanover, Braunschweig, Leipzig and Berlin. However, before he could call himself a master of his trade, Germany became engaged in the war with Denmark over the Schleswig-Holstein territory. He volunteered and served as a musketeer with the Ninth Schleswig-Holstein Infantry Battalion from July 22, 1848 until May 16, 1850.

His comportment certificate and discharge show that he was a brave soldier and performed his military duties with customary thoroughness:



## MILITARY RECORDS

### Comportment Certificate

For the musketeer G. A. Theodor Ahrens  
of the 1st Company of the 9th Inf. Battallian

The musketeer G. A. Theodor Ahrens who has served with the 1st Company of the 9th Schleswig-Holstein Infantry Battallian, since the 22nd July, 1848, has comported himself during this time in service and moral respect to the complete satisfaction of his superiors.

The same has taken part in the last campaign of the Battallian.  
Fluckstadt, the 15th of May, 1850

(signed) Husar W. Osten

Captain and Commander

Wax seal—compagni

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### Discharge

The musketeer, Andreas Theodor Ahrens, a native of Hamburg, 25 years old, who has served since the 1st of August, 1848, with the First Company of the 9th Schleswig-Holstein Infantry, has comported himself during his whole service to the complete satisfaction of his superiors, and has won the love of his comrades.

The above has taken part in all combats and in the seige before Friederuia the battallian undertook, and has always shown himself a brave soldier.

Signed

V. Stagen

Captain and Battallian Commander

Glueckstadt, May 16, 1850

IX Battallion seal

As soon as Theodor received his military discharge he made plans to fulfill his dream of coming to America, but he had first to earn the money for his passage. So, on the same day, May 16, 1850, he applied at the Courthouse in Hamburg for a travelling journeyman's permit to work in Elmshorn. Journeymen worked under strict rules and regulations and were required to secure permits to travel from one place to another and to report their comings and goings to city officials. Permission was granted him by the Chief of Police:

At the request of the Locksmith—journeyman

GEORG ANDR. THEOD. AHRENS

from *Hamburg* who from here plans to travel  
over to *Elmshorn*

and who has submitted the necessary evidence for this trip, has through this book received permission for this purpose, and therefore I officially

request each and all when he shows this book to let him pass undisturbed. Also, he has to conduct himself according to the here inclosed and printed rules.

*Glickstadt at the Courthouse*

*on the 16th of May, 1850, recorded*

Seal

Signatures of Chief of Police, etc. (6)

Theodor exchanged his uniform for his traditional journeyman's habit, complete with plumed hat and one earring, and proceeded to Elmshorn. At that time he was twenty-five years old, strong and healthy. He was over six feet tall, brown eyed and red haired and weighed over two hundred pounds. His nose was straight, his beard blond and his chin broad and determined.

Evidently he worked only a few months in Elmshorn for on August 2, 1850, he was back in Hamburg and soon thereafter set sail for America. (7)

When Theodor landed in New York in the latter part of the year 1850 President Zachary Taylor had just died, Millard Fillmore was President of the United States, and the country was in a state of great political confusion. Slavery was a smoldering fire, the Republican party was in the throes of being born, and Abraham Lincoln had served one term in the House of Representatives. The California gold rush, secession, the Fugitive Slave Act, the Compromise of 1850, the Know-Nothings and the gradual expiration of the Whig party were only a few of the swiftly moving current events of the day, and such statesmen as Daniel Webster and Henry Clay were making history.

From the time he set foot on American soil Theodor became intensely interested in his new country. He immediately became imbued with a spirit of democracy that continued to increase with the years and which he was later to instill in his children.

Work was scarce in New York and Theodor decided to go to Baltimore where his brother, Joachim, had lived for several years. His funds were low and he walked from New York to Baltimore, but to do other than walk would never have occurred to this young journeyman, accustomed as he had been to walking from one village to another in plying his trade.

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(6) Extract from the journeyman's book of Georg Andreas Theodor Ahrens.

(7) See letter of Theodore Ahrens to his children.



Locksmiths were no more in demand in Baltimore than they had been in New York so Theodor took a job as a sailor, chopped wood, went fishing and helped load ships for almost a year before he finally found employment in his chosen field at the Ross Winan's Machine Factory.

By this time Theodor loved America, he had a good job doing work at which he was a master, and he was content, except for one thing — he wanted to go back to Hamburg to see his mother and to select a wife. According to some family records Theodore married Maria Christine Lohman (Maria Christina Lohmann) in Hamburg on November 12, 1849, <sup>(8)</sup> just prior to his coming to America, but, in a letter to his children he said, "in 1852 my brother, Joachim, went to Hamburg and I went with him and there I met the mother of my dear children and married her in Hamburg."

Maria Christine Lohman was the daughter of a shoemaker in Schleswig, Germany. She was big-hearted and kind and a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to her husband and children. It is a family legend that Maria Christine first saw Theodor when she was being fitted for a dress being made for her by Theodor's mother. She happened to look out of a window and saw him standing on the street talking to a group of men. Cupid's dart struck home at first sight and she said, "There's the man I am going to marry." Dorothea Elsabe Ahrens glanced out the window and exclaimed, "Why, that's my Theodor!"

Soon after their marriage Maria Christine and Theodor made preparations for the voyage to America that was to take them thirty days. They packed all their belongings in a handmade three-drawer chest which was later to be handed down as an heirloom to their children. According to Theodor's letter they "left from Bremen in the summer of 1853 for Baltimore" where he "got a job as a tool maker in a Brass Foundry" and where he "had the opportunity to learn the brass business."

Theodor and Maria Christine continued to live in Baltimore until 1858 and Theodor became a foreman in the brass foundry. The 1858-59 census record shows that "T. Ahrens, Blacksmith,

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(8) Family notes of Theodore Ahrens, Jr. written between 1923 and 1927 in which he states: "My father's name was George Andreas Theodore Ahrens. The maiden name of my mother was Marie Christine Lohman. Married in Hamburg, Germany, November 12th, 1849. Name of preacher, C. G. Weyl. Church, Evangelical Lutheran."

at #3 House's Court" resided at "94 S. Sharp Street" in Baltimore, Ward 15. Three children were born to them in Baltimore:

1. Anna, born December 24, 1855
2. Ida, born in 1857
3. Theodore Jacob, born September 21, 1859

The Republican party came into being just about the time that Theodor Ahrens landed in Baltimore. He became a Republican at that time and remained a staunch supporter of that party all of his life. He also joined the Turner Bund, a German gymnastic and cultural society, during his early Baltimore days and was a member of that organization the balance of his life.

Soon before the birth of his third child Theodor became aware of a new push toward the west where the demand for skilled labor was greater than in Baltimore. His friends, the Ditmars, with whom he and Maria Christine had crossed the ocean from Bremen, lived in Louisville, Kentucky, and from time to time he received letters from them encouraging him to come west.

Louisville, with a bustling population of about fifty thousand, was at the crossroads of the big westward push and consequently needed new industries to keep pace with its rapid growth. Theodor, with characteristic sound judgment, decided to make the move. In a letter to his children he stated: "In November 1858 I went to Louisville and found employment at the foundry of Barbaraux and Snaden." Exactly a year later he opened his own business as a "brass founder and finisher in person" and moved his family to Louisville to a residence at Clay and Washington Streets.

Friendship with the Ditmars was resumed and "Tanta Meta" as the Ahrens children called Mrs. Ditmar, was Maria Christine's best friend. So dearly beloved was she that Maria Christine made her children promise that if the time ever came when Tanta Meta needed a home one of them would take care of her. Many years later this time did come, when her husband, Theodor and Maria Christine were all dead. As was the custom in the Ahrens family when there were problems to be solved, there was a family conference and Tanta Meta was asked with whom she wanted to live. She turned to Minna Waltenberger and said "With you I would like to live," and she did until her death about ten years later.



In 1861 the Ahrens family moved to Market Street at Jackson. Here five more children were born to them:

4. Louis, born September 16, 1861
5. Dora, born August, 1863
6. Minna, born September 18, 1865
7. Henry, born April 27, 1867
8. Charles, born June 27, 1870

In his bedroom at Market and Jackson Streets, Theodor hung large portraits of Washington, Franklin, Lincoln and Grant, the men whose democratic principles he most admired. In his bookcases were his histories of the United States, his favorite reading.

He entered into civic and social affairs, became a member of the Louisville Turner Bund, the Louisville Liederkrantz and the Masonic Lodge. When General Bragg invaded Kentucky in 1862 Theodor served for a short time with the Home Guards, organized for the defense of Louisville.

Theodor liked to tell that his brass business grew from \$10.00 which he borrowed from his neighbor, John Schorr, a blacksmith on Market Street, to enable him to buy a lot of scrap brass to fill his first order. True as this may have been, perseverance, sound business sense and mechanical skill laid a solid foundation upon which his business flourished.

Louisville in the 1860's was still growing rapidly, water and gas mains were introduced and Theodor, in 1865, decided to expand his business to include plumbing and pipe fitting. This expansion called for help and he took Henry Ott, a practical plumber, as a partner, establishing the firm of Ahrens and Ott. The new firm prospered and soon thereafter ventured into the manufacture of wholesale plumbing and steam fitting materials, brass and iron.

While her husband was busily engaged in business ventures Maria Christine devoted her time and interest to her growing family. Each night she gathered her children around the family table to study and read and sing together. Her interest and sympathetic tenderness were an inspiration to them. The bigness of her heart did not allow charity to end at home and she was kind and generous to everyone with whom she came in contact. Tramps were never turned away from her door and one particularly dirty old woman came regularly for a handout. Maria Christine would see her coming

and call out to the children, "Run, children, here comes Stinky!" But she, herself, stayed with her offensive guest as though she were the best of company.

During the 1860's Ida Dorothea Nebel, Maria Christine's mother, came from Gnissau, Germany, to live with her in Louisville. Mrs. Nebel was a very small woman and upon her death in 1870 Theodor, who was very fond of her, carried her coffin by himself.

Theodor's mantle began to descend very early upon the shoulders of his oldest son and namesake, who, at the age of ten, was firing the steam boiler at the foundry on Market Street during vacation.

Theodore Ahrens, Jr., was born September 21, 1859, in Baltimore. According to his baptismal certificate he was baptized in Louisville, February 8, 1867:

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE (9)

In the year 1859 on the 21st of September,  
in Louisville, Ky., was born,  
and baptized the 8th of February, 1867

Theodor Jacob

The parents are: Theodor Ahrens and  
Marie, born Lohmann

The godparents are:

Theodor Ahrens

Jacob Griedr. Gelhaar

This is certified with the seal of the church  
and by the signature of the pastor of the

Evangelical protest

St. Lukas Church in Louisville

Cha. A. Hermann

The boyhood impressions, education and training of Theodore Ahrens, Jr., are best told in his own words:

The first pictures with which I became acquainted as a little boy were the large size portraits of Washington, Franklin, Lincoln, and Grant which filled the walls of my father's bedroom. The history and achievements of these men were frequently related to me by my Father. The first book of any importance that I read and which fired my youthful imagination was a history of the United States . . . My Father's religious sentiments

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(9) This was evidently a clerical error since Theodore Ahrens was born in Baltimore September 21, 1859, before his family moved to Louisville.

Although the Ahrens family was not affiliated with any church all of the children, for the sake of record, were baptized at a mass baptism held at the Turner Hall by the preacher at the old German Church at Preston and Liberty Streets.



and philosophy of life could be covered by the Golden Rule . . . His favorite statesman was Abraham Lincoln. He most enjoyed the reading of history, a trait which I must have inherited from him . . . Darwin and Haeckel on evolution were given me to read while still in my boyhood days. Ingersoll was also a familiar name in our home . . . I cannot look back with much pleasure on my boyhood days. My Father was just beginning to establish himself in business. His family was large and everybody had to work. When school ended and vacation time came my Father put me to work in the foundry. I well remember how when only ten years old I was firing the steam boiler that furnished the power for the little plant on Market Street near Jackson (in Louisville), how I jumped the fence to play ball in the adjoining lot, forgetting all about the boiler and nearly blowing up the entire plant. When I again thought of my job I went back over the fence and found my Father busily engaged in raking the fire out from under the boiler, the water had gone below the danger line and the index hand on the steam gauge also. My Father told me to run, explaining the boiler would or might blow up any moment. I felt so guilty and conscience stricken that I refused, saying to myself that if my Father and the old boiler went, I would go too. However, we got through all right, but this taught me a lesson I never forgot, namely, stick to the job and do your duty no matter how unpleasant it is.

The public schools of Louisville were my only opportunity for an education. My first school teacher was a woman, but the teacher who made the greatest impression on me was Mr. Cross, who at that time was teaching in Walnut Street graded school, and incidently he gave me the most severe thrashing of my school life. In later years we became great friends, but he never liked to be reminded of this occasion. I excelled in Geography, History and Arithmetic, and I liked these best. I went through the common school grades, successfully passing the examinations for High School, but never entered, as I went to work in my Father's brass foundry at thirteen . . .

As a boy and for many years thereafter, I took an active interest in athletic sports of all kinds. I attended the gymnasium at the old Turner Hall on Jefferson Street from the time I was eight years old and continued to take active exercise and physical training until thirty-five . . . and believe firmly from personal experience in the old axiom, "A sound mind in a sound body."

It may be of interest to state here that for years the family bath tub consisted of one of my Mother's wash tubs, in which the children were successively lathered, scrubbed and cleansed . . . the first real bath tub our family possessed was an old copper-lined tub set up in the wood shed, there being no room in the house . . . The first real bathroom we had was put in a two story frame house that my Father owned on Preston Street near Main Street. I was then about sixteen years old.

You ask me what my Father wanted me to be and why, his prophecies about my success in life, etc. The answer to that is that he put me to work in the Brass Foundry at thirteen years of age and *hoped* he could



make a good mechanic out of me; my wages were two dollars and fifty cents per week — the rest was up to me. But my boyhood ambitions as to my future career were rather vague and indefinite. I do remember, however, that at one time I wanted to become a North Pole Explorer, and later on a Steamboat Captain. These prospects were seriously discussed with my Mother. I do not remember that she gave me any encouragement.

My first trip of any importance was to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. I was then about seventeen years of age. I paid my own expenses and enjoyed that wonderful show greatly. I made the trip with my Father and a friend of his. I was duly assessed one-third of the entire expense of the trip, which I paid from my savings. My Father's favorite axiom was Every tub must stand on its own bottom.

Early lessons in strict adherence to duty; the influence of an intensely patriotic, hard working father; an education gained in the hard school of practical experience rather than theory, and an inherited sound business and good common sense made the mold in which the character of Theodore Ahrens was set. The remembrance of a boyhood spent in helping to earn the daily bread, where the learning of a trade superceded play and the subsequent pulling up the ladder of success by honest personal effort made him especially sensitive to the problems of youth. This deep understanding and sensitiveness was manifested throughout his entire life by his championship of trade education and his outstanding services to boyhood.

After his graduation from common school Theodore went to work in the brass plant, first in the foundry and later at the lathe, for which work he received one dollar and twenty-five cents a day. For six years he applied himself to learning all he could about the business, and upon reaching the age of nineteen considered himself a "fair mechanic." And, because he considered himself a fair mechanic he asked for a raise of twenty-five cents a day. The firm of Ahrens and Ott, building up their business and watching pennies, refused him the raise. Whereupon Theodore promptly quit and went east. For three months he worked in the Haydenville Company brass factory at Haydenville, Massachusetts, then secured work in New York with Nathan and Dreyfuss as a brass finisher, where he earned from four dollars to six dollars per day. During this time he lived in the Bowery, which was at the height of its fame. After two years he returned to Louisville, "no richer in pocket, but wiser in experience."

By this time he had reached a man's estate, he was twenty-one, equipped with the skill of a mechanic and several years of practical experience. He had returned to a city still expanding at a rapid rate; electricity had recently been installed, new homes were being built and master plumbers were in demand. The firm of Ahrens and Ott was engrossed with its wholesale manufacture of plumbing and steamfitting materials, brass and iron, and had moved down to Market Street near Fifth. In order to devote all their time to their manufacturing concerns they sold their plumbing business to Theodore, Jr., John Ryan and William H. Welker, for the sum of two thousand dollars on credit. Their business proved so successful that they paid for it in eighteen months. For six years thereafter Theodore Ahrens was a Master Plumber. This title he loved with all his heart and it was during those six years that he laid the foundation for lasting friendships among the Master Plumbers of the world.

The year 1885 was an eventful year in the life of young Theodore, for in that year he acquired a wife and lost his mother. At a dance at the Turner Hall in Louisville he met Elizabeth Pfiester, born December 10, 1858, a young lady possessed of a very keen intellect and nearly a year older than he. He dutifully wrote his parents, then visiting in North Carolina, of his intention to marry, and received their replies:

Lynn, North Carolina  
Folk County,  
January 26, 1885

Dear Theodor,

You asked your mother's opinion about your fiancée, which you seem to value — which is good of you.

Your mother and I have talked about it and your mother has written you her opinion. Now I am going to give you mine.

You love the girl, of course, and that is the main thing. She is, as I understand, some years older than you and that is to be considered, if we are talking about a reasonable marriage. But that is the least. But I want to make you realize one thing, my dear Theodor, which you should thoroughly investigate, that is whether the girl and her parents are healthy and if, as one says, they are from good stock. I don't want to influence you but I consider it my duty to call your attention to this.

Another thing, do you agree in your ways of thinking? Which is important to consider, and also, if she is easily influenced by her mother because



one needs a firm sense to go against that as I have heard. That is all I have to say about that.

Your loving father,  
T. Ahrens

My dear son,

From your letter which we received on Wednesday, we saw that you are well and in the best humor. You can be satisfied with your business and if you all are together in good health and each does his duty as you have done up to now, then your business will do well.

My dear Son, you write for my opinion of your dear little girl. You shall have it. You are now old enough as a man, to take what fate sends across your path. For a good and happy marriage you must both give your share. The woman has much to do besides, because she should always be pleasant, otherwise you will fight and put on your hat and go where you will see pleasant faces and I would not like to see that happen.

You have known her long enough and you know that she is older than you. She certainly must be a dear, good and industrious girl and I hope from my deepest heart that she will make you a dear and faithful wife. Unity and confidence — if you have that for each other, then one can stand much. It should not always be "I" and nobody else.

That is all, my dear Son. Greetings to you and your dear girl.

Your loving mother,  
M. Ahrens

Theodore and Elizabeth were married April 30, 1885 in Louisville.

*Marriage Record*

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

Be it remembered that heretofore on the 30th day of April, 1885, Theodore J. Ahrens obtained from the Clerk of the County Court for the County and State aforesaid, a license to marry Lizzie Pfiester and they were married in the City of Louisville, County of Jefferson, and State of Kentucky, on the 30th day of April, 1885, by W. B. Hoke in the presence of Theodore Ahrens, Sr. and Louis Ahrens. All of which appears at large by reference to the Marriage Register on file in my office as Clerk of said Court.

In testimony where and that the foregoing is a true and perfect abstract as taken from the record aforesaid, I hereto set my hand at Louisville this 16th day of December, 1885.

Geo. H. Webb, Clerk  
by Wm. D. Reed, D. C.

They became the parents of two children:

1. Elsie, born March 12, 1886
2. Mildred, born February 18, 1892

Maria Christine Lohman Ahrens died December 19, 1885. Her death was a terrible blow to her husband and children. Under her influence they had grown into a tightly united family and on her deathbed she urged her children to carry on the family solidarity and always stick together. This earnest wish of Maria Christine's has been carried on down to the fourth generation of her descendants.

Theodor Ahrens, Sr., married again in July, 1886, Amalia Baass, the widow of Henry Baass.

The business of Ahrens and Ott continued to assume larger and larger proportions and in 1886 was reorganized under the name of The Ahrens and Ott Manufacturing Company with Theodore Ahrens, Jr., as Treasurer and General Manager. Refusing to work on a salary Theodore, Jr., demanded that he be allowed to buy a stock interest in the company, and his active career as an executive began. Upon his request Oscar Marschuetz, George H. Laib, Louis Ahrens and A. Wunderlich were also taken into the firm at that time and the principle of allowing stock ownership to employees was established.

The manufacture of cast iron soil pipe and fittings was added to the manufacture of plumbing and heating materials and a small plant was built on Sixteenth and Arbegust Streets.

The management of the mechanical end of the business was under Oscar Marschuetz, who, upon his connection with the Ahrens and Ott Manufacturing Company, brought his family, consisting of his wife and little daughter, to Louisville. He was a man of outstanding ability and he became a close friend of Theodore Ahrens, Jr. His wife, Anna, became the best friend of Elizabeth Ahrens and his little daughter, Cora, became the bosom friend and companion of Elsie Ahrens.

At this time the entire Ahrens family lived within a few blocks of each other. Theodor Ahrens, Sr., lived at Third and Lee Streets; Theodore, Jr., had moved from his house at 425 E. Chestnut to a home next door to his father; and Anna, Ida, Minna, Charlie and the Marschuetz family lived within three blocks of each other. Here the children were brought up together. How content Maria Christine would have been could she have seen how close her family was, how joys and sorrows were shared by all and how happy they were. There were many big parties to which all of the family came.



Christmas time was fragrant with the smell of freshly baked German cakes and cookies and there was always a big family party with Kris Kringle and all the children taking part. The women in the family made special occasions of birthdays and sometimes there would be so many that the children would have to sit at a third table. At all of these family gatherings and treated as part of the family, were the Marschuetzes.

Theodore Ahrens, Jr., took more and more of an active part in the Ahrens and Ott Manufacturing Company, which, within three years, outgrew the plant at Sixteenth and Arbegust. Under the supervision of Oscar Marschuetz, the business was moved to Sixth and Hill where it continued to expand, and in 1895 the manufacture of cast iron enameled sanitary ware was added to its production. Soon the Ahrens and Ott Manufacturing Company was one of the leading enameled ware manufacturers.

The gradual expansion of the Ahrens and Ott Manufacturing Company under the guiding hand of Theodore Ahrens, Jr., was a justification of the faith his father had in the industrial expansion of Louisville and the South, and his belief in the fundamentals of sanitation in plumbing.

In December, 1899, the Ahrens and Ott Manufacturing Company, the Dawes and Myler Manufacturing Company, the Standard Manufacturing Company, and six other plants were consolidated to form the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company. Theodore Ahrens, Jr., became the first president of the new organization with headquarters in Pittsburgh. He remained president of the Standard Manufacturing Company for the next thirty years — years which he said were the most productive and the best years of his life. During those years he charted the course of the largest company of its kind in the world, with factories scattered throughout America and Europe. Regarding the organization of the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company Theodore Ahrens wrote:

The basic idea upon which the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company was formed was that by combining the capital and best brains and manufacturing ability in the sanitary line, it would be possible . . . to manufacture and distribute plumbing fixtures at a price so low that we could put them within the reach of people of limited means. As a result, the bathroom and kitchen sink today form a part of the modest home of the wage earner as well as the more expensive home of the rich. It is

well known that the people of no other nation enjoy the comforts of modern sanitation like the American people. To have helped bring this about has been a great satisfaction to me. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. No other people appreciate this old adage like we do. My travels through Europe and the Orient have convinced me that if the benefits of sanitation which means good sewers and good plumbing, could be shared by the people of other nations, it would go a long way toward making them contented, and this would be a better world to live in.

Carrying on the principle he established as Treasurer and General Manager of the Ahrens and Ott Manufacturing Company, Theodore Ahrens encouraged employees of the new company to become partners in the enterprise by arranging to sell them stock on liberal terms. This principle, he believed, played an important part in the success of the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company.

This interest in his employees stemmed from his heart. During his entire life he devoted thought, time, and money to the service of his friends and business associates, and to extending opportunities and advantages to the youth of America.

On January 19, 1903, three years after the formation of the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company, Theodor Ahrens, Sr., died. His son never forgot that the powerful new company grew out of the foresight shown by his father in the establishment of his tiny brass foundry in Louisville in 1858. He considered his father a skilled mechanic, and like him was an ardent believer in the apprentice system as a means of producing skilled labor.

"The old system of indentured apprenticeship has disappeared," he once said. "Mass production methods and an apathy on the part of workmen themselves have been factors in the system's decay. Under modern methods a man learns one operation or phase of a trade, with the result that, if he loses his job, often he is not qualified for another. Return of apprenticeship, under which a man agrees to work for a specified time and the company assumes a responsibility to teach him a trade from beginning to end, would do much toward eliminating unemployment."

In recognition of his ideas on this subject he was appointed by Governor Chandler to serve as chairman of a committee for working out a system of apprenticeship in the State.

So keen was Theodore Ahrens' desire to promote industrial efficiency by means of education that in 1925 he made two great



contributions to that field, contributions that were to become lasting monuments to his memory.

In the spring of 1925 he visited Louisville's Vocational School to learn what the school offered and how it functioned. Three weeks later he provided two hundred fifty thousand dollars for a new trade school building which would afford both adequate housing for the school at that time and opportunity for expansion. To that gift he added fifty thousand dollars for a gymnasium to afford opportunity to develop "a sound body and a social mind." The name of the school was changed to Theodore Ahrens Trade School. Its value to the city of Louisville cannot be estimated since there could be no greater contribution to a community than a school from which emerge independent, self-sustaining people, armed with skills which make them valuable both to industry and society.

As the Theodore Ahrens Trade School grew, Theodore Ahrens made other generous contributions to it, amounting in all to about five hundred thousand dollars and often referred to it as "one of the things I have done that gave me the most pleasure."

In the fall of the same year the Theo. Ahrens Professorship of Plumbing, Heating and Ventilating was established at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh. Its objective was the promotion of scientific education in plumbing, heating and ventilating. It was the first professorship established at Carnegie "Tech" and the first such chair established in any educational institution in the world.

These were but two of the many steps forward in the cause of trade education which Theodore Ahrens took in order that young men should have the chance to obtain technical training which had not been available to him in his own youth.

While these things were being done Theodore Ahrens was reaching the peak of his own career, the climax of which was the consolidation in March, 1929, of the American Radiator Company and the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company, to form the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation.

The offices he held at that time were: Member of the Board of Directors, President and Member of the Executive Committee of American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation, American Radiator Company and Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company; member of the Board of Directors of the C. F. Church Manufactur-



ing Company, which was purchased in 1929. He held the three presidencies for one year; after that time he retired as President of Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company and of American Radiator Company, and became Chairman of the Board of Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company. He continued to serve as President of American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corporation until March, 1934, at which time he decided to retire and turn control over to younger men. His directorships and the chairmanship of the board of the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company he held until his death.

Retirement gave Theodore Ahrens more time to pursue what he termed his three hobbies — athletic sports, travel, and industrial education.

He had always been very proud of the fact that he and his brothers were great athletes, winning many prizes for their bar work, weight lifting, jumping and discus throwing. At one time at a Turnfest in Cincinnati in which all four of them participated, a bystander was heard to exclaim, "Can't anyone win a prize but those Ahrens boys?" He remained interested in athletics, particularly in feats of skill and strength long after he gave up strenuous exercise himself. He served for fifteen years as a member of the National Executive Committee of the Turnerbund and was the founder of the Jahn Educational Fund, set up because, he said, "I owe a great deal to the Turnverein, and think I'd like to do something this year to show my appreciation. So I've decided to donate five thousand dollars to the cause — could we use it for mental training? Our *geistiges Turnen* is always neglected." He was a Turner for more than half a century, served as attendant or delegate at many Turnfests and National Conventions, and was a liberal contributor to all Turner funds and causes.

Particularly fond of travel, Theodore Ahrens circled the globe many times. Wherever his path led he displayed a keen interest in the sanitary conditions and problems of that particular place. His travels in other countries always made him more intensely proud of being an American. From Berlin in 1924 he wrote, "If I were a religious man I would get down on my knees every night and thank God that I am an American and living in the only country in the world to live in today."

He was also keenly appreciative of the American high standard of living, which standard he believed due to the capitalistic system of government. Summing up his views on the capitalistic system, he said, "Capitalism and Communism are fundamentally opposed; there will never be a common ground between them, nor do I believe the two will ever merge into a third economic system. The capitalistic system has been good to me, but, despite that, it seems to me to be human nature for a man to want to be rewarded for what he achieves; Communism would deny him that and would destroy initiative as well. Mr. Stalin, himself, recognized that when he introduced, some years ago, a system of piece work, whereby some persons can make more than others according to their ability."

Theodore Ahrens' third hobby, industrial education, sprang from trials of his early life which left him with deep and broad understanding and an earnest desire to help others to help themselves. The Theodore Ahrens Trade School and the Chair of Plumbing and Ventilation at Carnegie Institute established by him in 1925 were, by no means, the limit of his philanthropies, and he gave liberally of his time and energy, as well as money, when necessary.

He served as chairman of a commission which co-operated with the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education to establish a plumbing trade apprenticeship school in Pittsburgh and as trustee of the Woods Run Settlement House, Pittsburgh. Interested in the underprivileged he gave generously to Negro educational and social organizations and was a director of the Lincoln Institute of Kentucky and the National Home Finding Society for Negro Children.

At one time Theodore Ahrens was a Councilman for the City of Louisville and among the civic organizations in which he took an active part were the Louisville Board of Trade and the Louisville Sewer Commission. He was also a director of the Louisville Title Mortgage Company. He was actively interested in the establishment of Mammoth Cave as a National Park, to which cause he gave substantial financial contributions in addition to serving for many years as a director of The Mammoth Cave National Park Association, a non-profit organization for the purpose of establishing a national park in the Mammoth Cave area.



Naturally many honors were bestowed upon Theodore Ahrens for his untiring efforts to help others. In 1926 he became one of only fifteen members of the Louisville Board of Trade ever to be granted an honorary life membership, at which time he was presented a scroll extolling him for the "conspicuous service rendered as a business man, citizen and civic leader, who by the breadth and vision of his industrial activities, by his generous gifts to vocational education, by his abiding interest in promoting the welfare of humanity and by his labors in the establishment of the organization on a solid financial foundation has vitally contributed to good citizenship and to the growth, progress and prosperity of Louisville."

In 1926 the Women's Auxiliary of the National Association of Master Plumbers founded a scholarship in his honor at Carnegie Institute of Technology.

For his "distinguished service to boyhood" he was awarded a silver beaver in 1937 by the Louisville Area Council Boy Scouts of America, of which group he had been honorary vice president and an active member for ten years. The establishment of the Covered Bridge Reservation, Boy Scout Camp near Prospect, Kentucky, was made largely through his efforts. Theodore Ahrens was particularly touched and pleased by this honor and on the night he received the silver beaver he walked up to a large statue of a brass puddler which stood in his home, placed the award around the statue's neck and said, "Molder, you never thought you would have the honor of wearing a silver beaver." The statue, still wearing the beaver, is in the home of his grandson, Edward Ahrens.

Seventeen years later, on February 23, 1954, this grandson, Edward Ahrens, was one of five men awarded the silver beaver at a dinner meeting held by the Louisville Area Boy Scouts of America, in the cafeteria of the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company.

Among the social organizations to which Theodore Ahrens belonged, in addition to the Louisville Turners, were the Pendennis Club, Louisville; the Los Angeles Athletic Club; The Jonathan Club, Los Angeles; Engineers Club, New York, and the Duquesne Club, Pittsburgh.



While Theodore Ahrens was occupied with these things his two daughters, Elsie and Mildred Ahrens, grew up and married.

Elsie married June 2, 1909 Edward J. Zinsmeister and had two children, Edward, born July 8, 1914 and Anne Elizabeth (Betty), born July 12, 1916. Edward J. Zinsmeister, Jr., by proper court order of September 29, 1937, changed his name from Edward J. Zinsmeister to Edward Ahrens. Elsie Ahrens Zinsmeister divorced Edward Zinsmeister. She was married again May 19, 1937 to Karl H. Lang.

Mildred Ahrens married February 14, 1914 Edgar Howard. She died January 19, 1919, leaving no children.

Theodore Ahrens and his wife, Elizabeth Pfiester Ahrens, were never temperamentally suited to each other, although each had for the other the utmost regard and respect. This lack of compatibility caused them to agree to an amicable separation. They were never divorced and they remained friends, often playing cards together and discussing things of mutual interest concerning their family. Elizabeth Ahrens lived in her house at 1704 Third Street in Louisville and Theodore Ahrens made his home with his daughter, Elsie.

On October 29, 1936, when he was seventy-seven years old, Theodore Ahrens wrote the following memorandum to his daughter:

Dear Elsie:

Since it is inevitable that I must soon pay the tribute to nature, which all of us must finally render, I want to herewith give you some instructions that I am sure you will follow.

In case of my death please have my body cremated. I have for years, as you know, stated this wish to you. I do not want an elaborate funeral. I suggest that such services as you may wish to have would be held at one of the Funeral Parlors, and if you have no other preference let it be at the Maas, on Floyd and Broadway.

I am writing George Seibel, as per copy of enclosed, and if he is available would like to have him say a few words at the funeral service.

I want my ashes to rest on the family lot in Cave Hill, and want you to see that they are interred in a bronze casket. I like to know that my final

resting place will be among my family, and while this is only a sentimental thought nevertheless I am sure you will see that it is carried out.

Theodore Ahrens

To this letter he added a postscript very characteristic of his thoughtfulness of others:

Please send George Seibel, or any other speaker, a proper appreciation in cash and include traveling expenses.

Theodore Ahrens

On the same day he wrote his old friend, George Siebel in Pittsburgh:

Mr. George Seibel,  
902 Century Building,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear George:

The enclosed copy of a memorandum, addressed to my daughter, explains itself. May I ask you to grant me this wish, and if it is possible for you to do so say a few words at my funeral services.

I believe you and I think alike on the subject of religion and hereafter. While neither of us are members of any religious denomination we both respect the Christian and other religions for the good they have accomplished in this world, yet I have never had any fixed religious belief and I would not want any preacher to say things at my funeral that would be contrary to my opinions as expressed during my lifetime.

Thanking you in advance and hoping that it will be some time before your services will be required, I remain

Your friend

Theodore Ahrens

On May 27, 1938 Theodore Ahrens suffered an attack of uremia, and on Sunday, June 12, a heart attack caused his death. Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 14, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Karl H. Lang, 1680 Spring Drive, Louisville, followed by cremation rites and private burial in Cave Hill Cemetery, just as he had requested.

Among the tributes paid by his old friend, George Seibel, when he delivered the funeral address were these words from his heart, "(he) was among the finest Americans I have ever known. I wished to know what were the last words Theodore Ahrens had



spoken and asked his daughter. In one of his brief moments of consciousness under the oxygen tent he said to her, 'We'll work together.' The words are typical of the man, who was always working, and always working together with somebody else, usually *for* somebody else."

Tributes and messages poured in from everywhere to his family, indicative of the universal respect in which he was held. The *Louisville Courier-Journal*; *The New York Times*; *The Arizona Daily Star*; *The Pittsburgh Press*, and other papers along the path the big-hearted industrialist had trod, published editorials to his honor.

*The Courier-Journal* of June 14, 1938, in an editorial speaking for the City which knew him best and was to miss him most, said:

Theodore Ahrens, industrialist and philanthropist, leaves two enduring monuments, one to each phase of his career, the American Radiator-Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Corporation and the Theodore Ahrens Trade School, besides numerous permanent benefactions, particularly in Louisville and Pittsburgh . . . This was characteristic of Mr. Ahrens' business and philanthropic enterprises. He never confused charity with prodigality, perhaps a hereditary trait. He was of the second generation of that admirable German stock which stamped its indelible impress on these Ohio River cities. Mr. Ahrens was essentially a builder and the distinctive quality of his building was substantial. If not devoid of ambition, neither was Mr. Ahrens building monuments to himself. The name of the Louisville Vocational School was changed to the Ahrens Trade School as a spontaneous public recognition of his large endowment . . . It was by accident of birth that Mr. Ahrens found his opportunity in that (the plumbing) business. He would have succeeded in any; but it was the character of the man to devote so great and so well-considered expenditures to enlarging opportunities for future generations . . ."

That he would have succeeded in any enterprise is true, partly because of his constructive genius, but also because of the idealism and personality of the man himself.

William White, Sunday editor of *The Pittsburgh Press*, in a story about Theodore Ahrens for *The "Standard" News*, of July, 1938, a monthly periodical published by Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, wrote the following paragraphs about him:

To those who knew Mr. Ahrens best . . . the close friends and business associates he had made in his sixty-five active years and in his world-



wide travels . . . he was not a giant of industry, but just a man — a man to whom the amassing of a fortune meant naught as compared to the gathering of friends and to the sowing of the seeds of idealism; a man whose engaging personality captivated the thousands who were proud to call him a friend; an idealist who put before all else the betterment of humanity; a man who, denied in his youth the education that he believed should come to all youth, held close to his heart always the thought that the betterment of sanitation particularly and the world generally depended upon education, to which he directed his energies as long as his health permitted . . . Great personal wealth was never the aim of Mr. Ahrens, nor did he ever seek for himself personal glory which might have come to him, had he desired it, from the humanitarian deeds which dotted his pathways . . .

Fifteen years after the death of Theodore Ahrens, in a composition written by Anne Ahrens, the wife of his grandson, Edward Ahrens, a picture of his warm, engaging personality was drawn by one of his own family who still carried pleasant, happy memories of him. She wrote:

Though he was my husband's grandfather, I called him Grandfather long before I was married. Almost everyone I knew called him Grandfather. Today when we talk about this master plumber we always refer to him as Grandfather . . . his generosity and kindness were qualities manifest in his personal and business relationships alike, and he was loved for his delightful personality and friendliness. "A mighty man was he, with large and sinewy hands, and the muscles of his brawny arms are as strong as iron bands" — these lines always make me think about Grandfather because it is such a perfect description of him. Grandfather was a powerful man. When he closed the door the whole house shook. His love pats had the force of might behind them. His voice had a deep, potent quality to it. I recall one night, when a crowd had gathered at his home and it had gotten late, he announced in his great voice, "I think we had better go to bed so these nice people can go home!" There was always fun and laughter when Grandfather was near. Five o'clock in the afternoon was Grandfather's highball hour. Everyone who was in the house was invited to have a drink with him. This was the time he enjoyed chatting with people. Even the workmen, working about the house, were invited to chat and project their thoughts into the conversation. Grandfather enjoyed people. He was never too busy to listen . . . he was a man who knew the value of the other man's ideas.

Theodore Ahrens was not a religious man according to accepted concepts of Christianity, but he diligently searched, all of his life, for a religion he could believe in. During his last illness he made ar-

rangements with the hospital chaplain to discuss God and the hereafter with him, but he died without having found what he was searching for.

However, unconsciously, he had always been a fervant advocate of the Golden Rule and applied it consistently to his daily living. His warmhearted humanitarianism; consideration for the ideas of those with whom he came in contact; humility coming from a deep thankfulness for the opportunity of being an American; sound business judgment; and a naturally magnetic, engaging personality were blended into his character. From this mold has sprung fruit that will continue to nurture the progress of the world.

PORTRAITS OF  
*THE AHRENS FAMILY*







GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS  
1825-1903





MARIA CHRISTINE LOHMANN AHRENS  
1820-1885





THEODORE AHRENS  
1859-1938

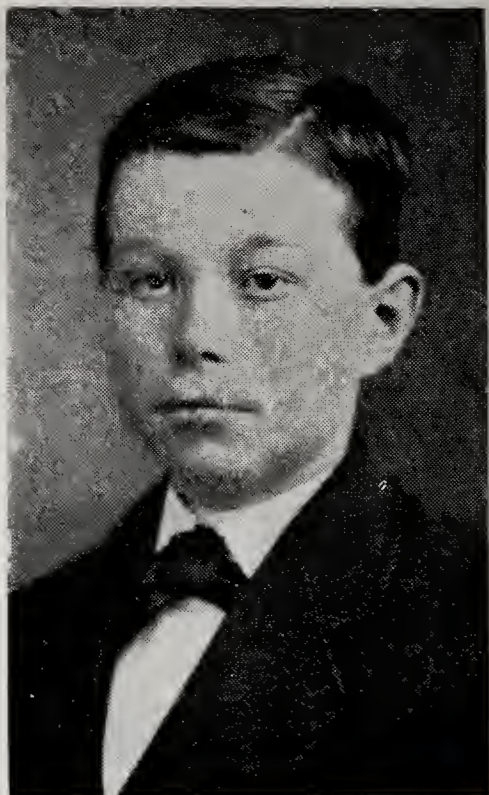




ANNA AHRENS MUELLER  
1855-1930



IDA AHRENS OHLMANN  
1857-1913



LOUIS AHRENS  
1861-1896



MINNA AHRENS  
WALTENBERGER  
1865-



HENRY AHRENS  
1867-1886



CHARLES AHRENS  
1870-1921

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These are the first generation of the Ahrens family born in America with the exception of Theodore, whose picture is on the preceding page, and Dora who died young.





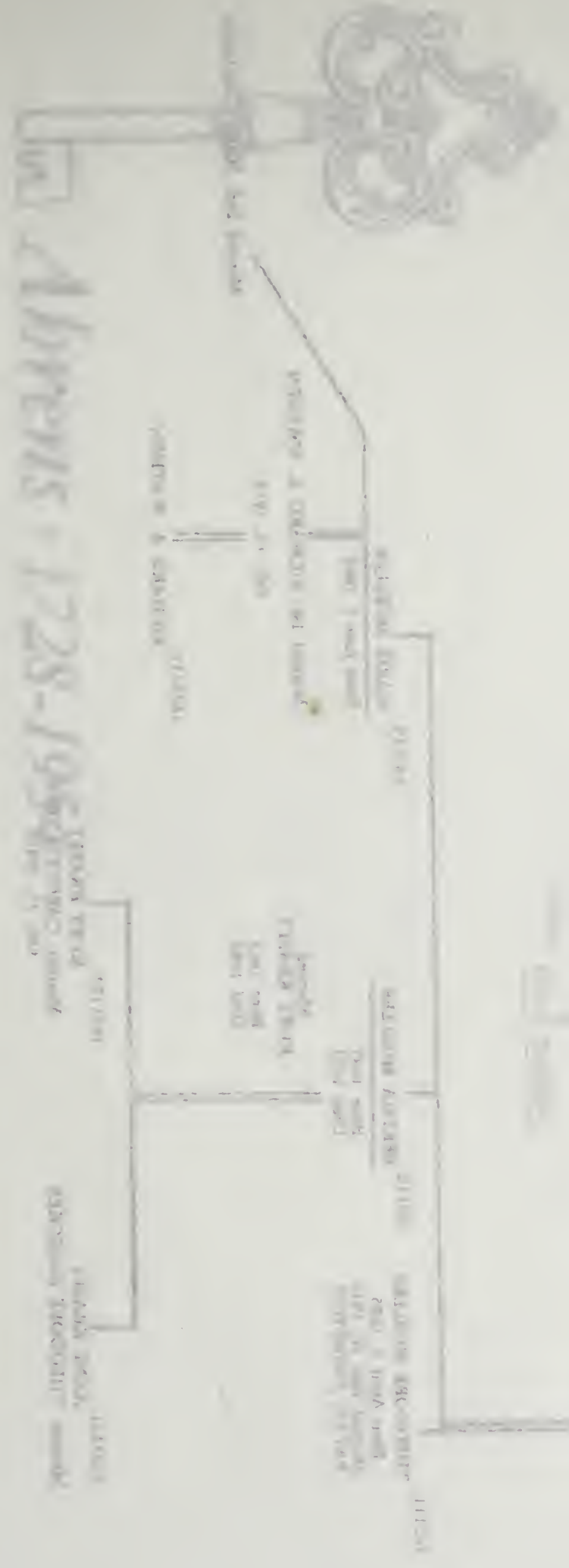
STANDING: PAULINE AHRENS, META WALTENBERGER  
MIDDLE: BERTHA MUELLER, THEODORE MUELLER, MILDRED AHRENS  
FRONT: ELSIE AHRENS, MARIE MUELLER, (Taken about 1911)



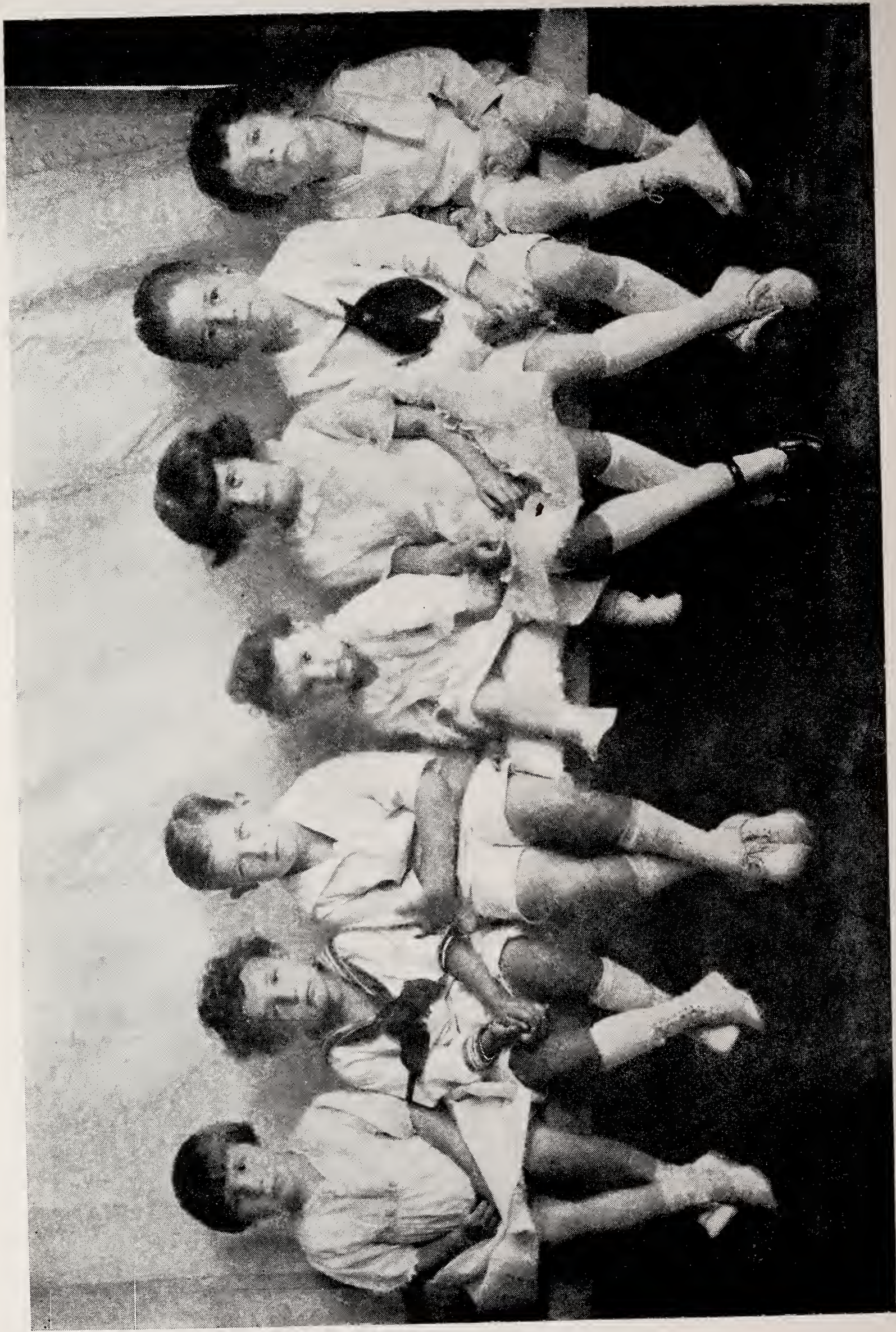


BETTY ZINSMEISTER, KURTIE KRAFFT, FRANK DOAK, JR., POLLY BURGESS, ANN KRAFFT,  
EDWARD ZINMEISTER, RICHARD A. WATHEN, JR.  
(Taken about 1920)



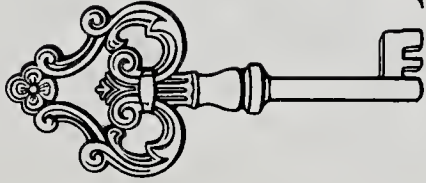
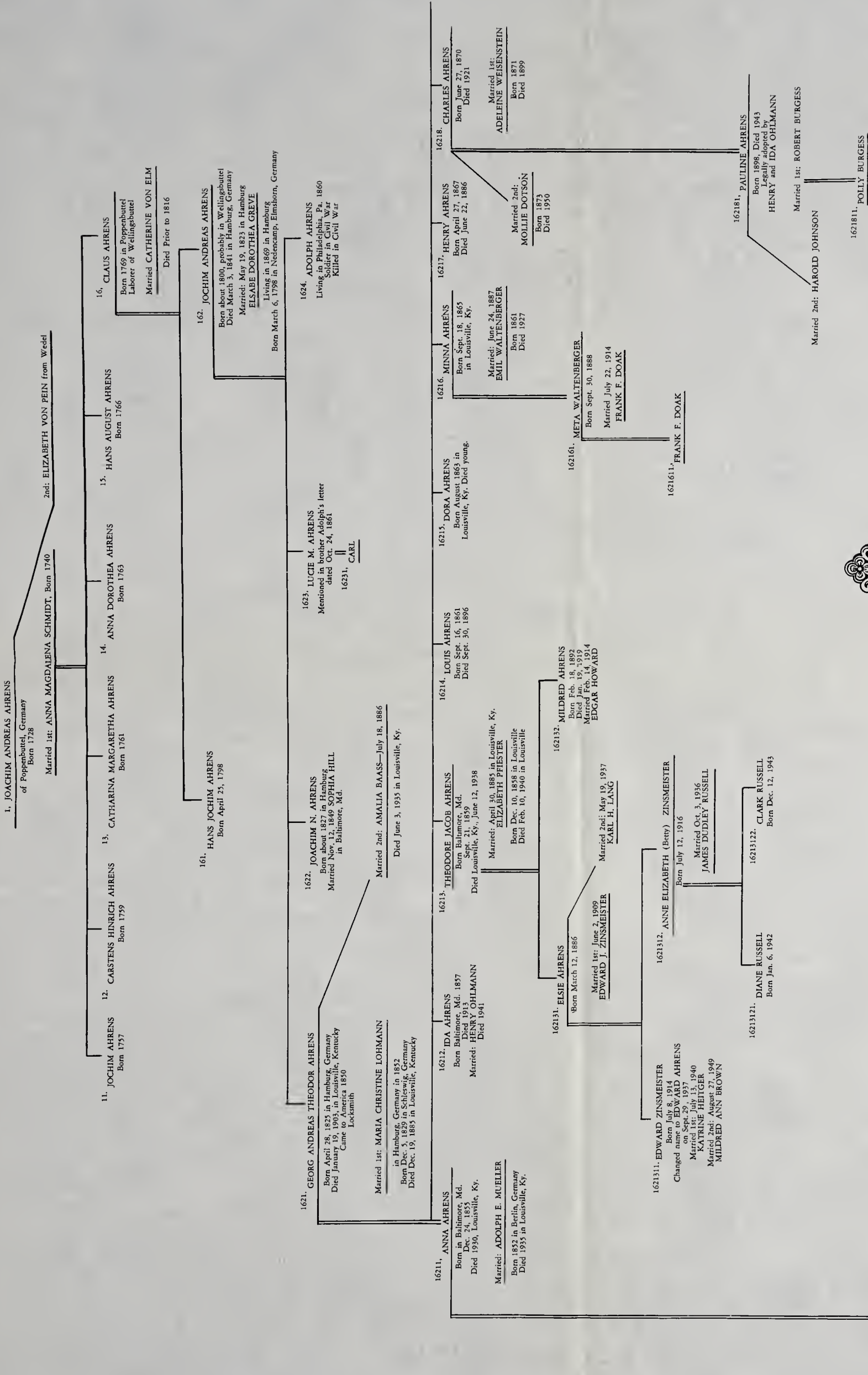




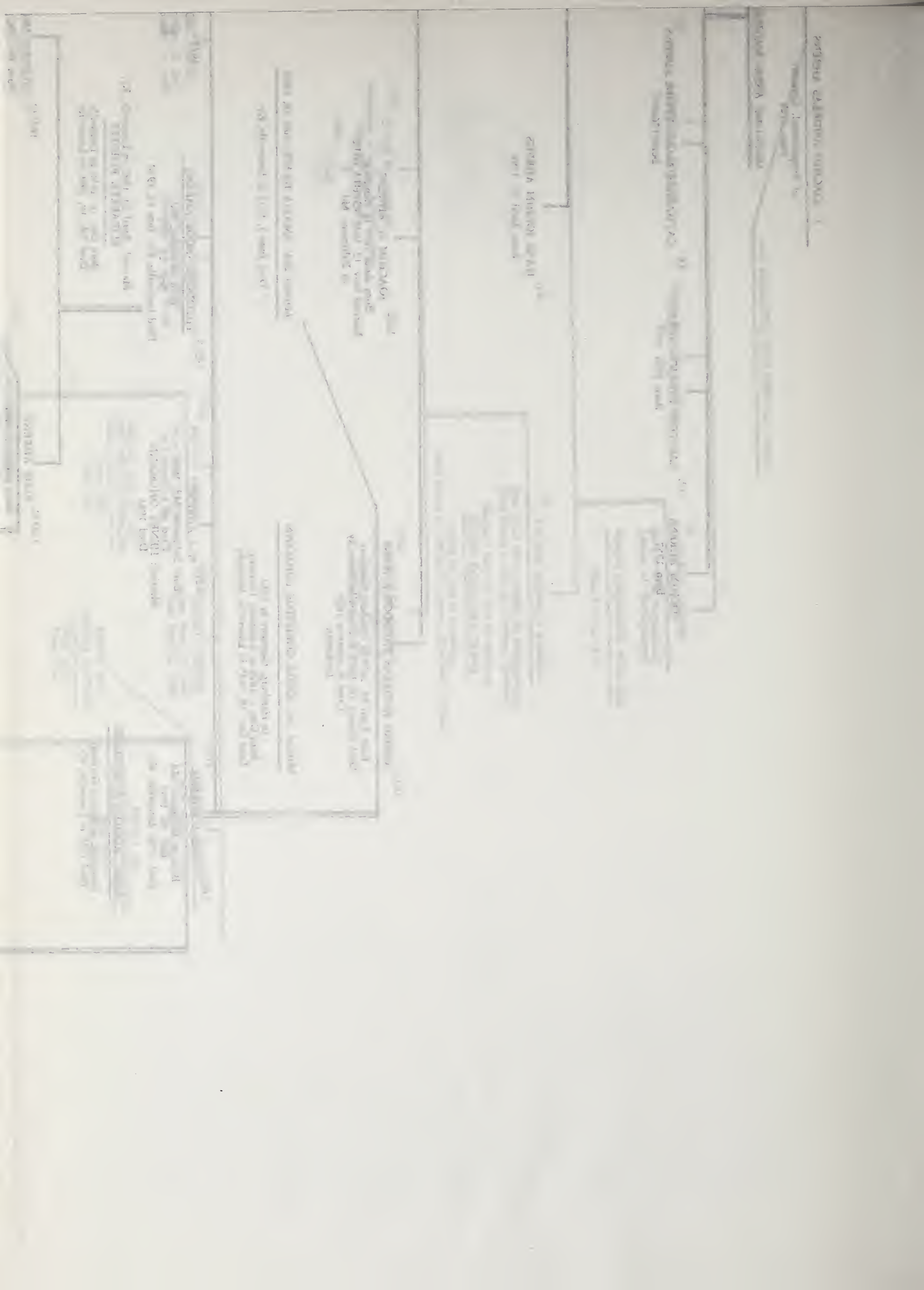


BETTY ZINSMEISTER, KURTIE KRAFFT, FRANK DOAK, JR., POLLY BURGESS, ANN KRAFFT,  
EDWARD ZINMEISTER, RICHARD A. WATHEN, JR.  
(Taken about 1920)





Abrens • 1728-1954





GENEALOGY OF  
*THE AHRENS FAMILY*

1728-1954





# GENEALOGY OF *THE AHRENS FAMILY*

1728-1954

This genealogical data is compiled from the notes collected by Theodore Ahrens, Jr., and his sister, Minna, and from various other family sources.

To avoid possible confusion each individual has a number by which his generation and direct ancestry may be easily recognized. This numbering is done by the following system: Since Joachim Andreas Ahrens is the first known Ahrens his number is 1, and his children are 11, 12, 13, etc. This shows that they are the first, second and third children of 1, and are the second generation. The children of 11 would be numbered 111, 112, 113, etc. showing that they are the third generation and the children of 11, and so on down through the generations. Taking Theodore Ahrens, Jr., as an example we find that his number is 16213, which means that he is the fifth generation, and that he is the third child of 1621. Sixteen twenty-one we find, is George Andreas Theodor Ahrens, and see that he is the first child of 162. We look at 162 and see that he is Jochim Andreas Ahrens, and know that he is the third generation and the second child of 16. Sixteen, we find, is Claus Ahrens, and we know that he is the sixth child of 1, who is Joachim Andreas Ahrens.

At the back of the genealogy is a chart showing the ancestry of Maria Christine Lohmann, and a page of Pfiester family notes.

The spelling of proper names may, at times, appear inconsistent. This inconsistency was necessary in order to follow as closely as possible each individual's spelling of his own name, first in Germany, and later in America. Names in quotations appear as they are spelled in the original translations from German to English.

1. JOACHIM ANDREAS AHRENS

Born 1728, village magistrate and land owner registered  
in the village of Poppenbittel on August 14, 1769, age 41

Married: (1) ANNA MAGDALENA SCHMIDT from Othmar-  
schen, Germany, age 29

Children: 11, JOCHIM

Born 1757

12, CARSTENS HINRICH

Born 1759

13, CATHARINA MARGARETHA

Born 1761

14, ANNA DOROTHEA

Born 1763

15, HANS AUGUST

Born 1766

16, CLAUS

Born 1769 in Poppenbittel

Married: (2) ELIZABETH VON PEIN from Wedel



## 1. JOACHIM ANDREAS AHRENS

### PROTOCOL

Written in Poppenbittel in the manor house on August 14, 1769

According to the writing of the registrar in Pinneberg from July 20 this day was appointed for a registration and all landlords and residents are named and we find the following:

1. Joachim Andreas Ahrens, village magistrate and land owner. (41 years old) married to Anna Magdalena Schmidt (on) from Othmarschen (29) Six children are: Jochim (12), Carstens Hinrich (10), Catharina Margaretha (8), Anna Dorothea (6), Hans August (3), Claus (1/2).

Hans Ahrens, Katner and lumber overseer (59)

Herman Ahrens, teacher

Claus Ahrens, cottager (50)

Detlauf Ahrens, cottager (50)

1236241

The Claus Ahrens who was born in 1769 can only be the father of the Joachim Andreas Ahrens who was born around 1800 and who was the father of Theodor Ahrens. The village of Wellingsbittel is near the village of Poppenbittel. The grandson has the same first names of the grandfather. "Vogt" is the same as village magistrate. "Vollhufner" is the same as land owner. Joachim Andreas Ahrens married in second marriage Elizabeth Von Pein from Wedel, where the Peins came from.

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Copied from papers of Emil Von Pein, who was looking up the ancestry of his wife, who is a cousin. Von Pein, who is employed as a clerk in the Law Department in Hamburg, found it necessary to trace his ancestry and his wife's, in order to retain his position in the Hitler regime in Germany.

16. CLAUS AHRENS

Born 1769 in Poppenbittel, Germany.

Laborer of Wellingsbittel.

Was six months old on August 14, 1769 according to register of that date in the village of Poppenbittel.

Married: CATHERINE VON ELM, died prior to 1816

Children: 161, HANS JOCHIM

Born April 25, 1798 (see baptismal record)

162, JOCHIM ANDREAS

Born about 1800,

Married Elsabe Dorothea Greve



161. HANS JOCHIM AHRENS

Born April 25, 1798

BAPTISMAL RECORD

1816

Ebbesen

HANS JOCHIM AHRENS

legitimate son of the resident Claus Ahrens of Wellingsbittel and the now deceased Catharina, born von Elm, was born, according to the baptismal register A. D. 1798 on the 25th of April, and baptized 1798, the 29th of April. His witnesses were: 1. Joachim Andres Ahrens 2. Hans Kahl, both from Poppenbittel 3. Geha von Elm, from Braunfeld.

In the year 1814 on the second Whitsun holiday he was confirmed and partook of the Lord's Supper. Shortly thereafter moved to Hamburg, which all is attested by the pastor from

Bergstedt on July 4th, 1816

C. Fr. Henningsen

162. JOACHIM ANDREAS AHRENS

Born about 1800, probably in Wellingsbittel, died March 3, 1841 in Hamburg. Occupation, laborer, postman.

Married: ELSABE DOROTHEA GREVE, May 19, 1823 in Hamburg. (see copy of marriage record)

Elsabe Greve was born March 6, 1798 in Nedencamp, Elmshorn, Germany. Died in Hamburg. Living in 1869 when her son George Andreas Theodore Ahrens visited her in Hamburg.

Children: 1621, GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR

Born April 28, 1825 in Hamburg

1622, JOACHIM N.

Born———

1623, LUCIE

Born———

Mentioned in brother Adolph's letter dated Oct. 24, 1861. Evidently had a son Carl, also mentioned in brother's letter.

1624, ADOLPH

Born———

Living in Philadelphia, 1860. Soldier in the Civil War.



162. JOACHIM ANDREAS AHRENS

CITIZENS OATH

I promise and swear in the name of God the Omnipotent, that I shall be faithful to this council and this town, shall endeavor to do the best for it and to avert harm from it to the best of my ability, also never to raise against this council and this town through word or deed, and should I acquire knowledge of something against this council and town I will faithfully report it. I will also willingly pay my yearly income taxes, and also Turkish taxes, additional taxes, custom duty, excise duty, real estate taxes, and whatever else is agreed upon by an honorable council and the citizens.

So God and his Holy Word might help me.

JOACHIM ANDREAS AHRENS

has sworn the above oath

Recorded, Hamburg, the 2nd of May, 1823

G. v. Graffen, Dr.

---

This copy of the oath of citizenship was sent to Theodore Ahrens, grandson of Joachim Andreas Ahrens, by his cousin, Otto Schultz, April 19, 1926.

Hamburg, 19 April '26

My dear Theodor!

In cleaning up I found the enclosed oath of citizenship, and since I don't know what relation he was of your father's, whether it is the citizenship paper of your grandfather or of a brother of your father's, I am sending it to you since you are better informed about our family relations and the degree of relationship.

It used to be that in Hamburg each resident if he married, resided and payed taxes there he had to take the oath and also serve in the city-militia and guard. When the city-militia marched outside the town it was always a big occasion. Your parents will have told you much about this.

This oath of allegiance is written in old German (so called low German) and has now become a rare document which few people own.

So that you will better understand it if I translated it into modern German, and if you still know as much low German as your brother Charli you will be able to understand it when you read it.

If I have given you pleasure, dear Theodor, by sending you this paper I would be very glad.

About us, I can say, etc.

Von Deinem Otto (Schultz, cousin)



162. JOACHIM ANDREAS AHRENS

MARRIAGE RECORD

St. Nicolai

In the year 1823 on the 19th

of May

JOACHIM ANDREAS AHRENS and MISS  
ELSABE DOROTHEA GREVE were married by

W. N. Freudentheil, Pastor

Hamburg, January 24, 1931

1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

Born April 28, 1825 in Hamburg, Germany, died January 19, 1903, Louisville, Ky.

Came to America in 1850. Lived in Baltimore until 1852 when he went back to Germany. Returned to America in 1853 and lived in Baltimore until 1859, when he moved to Louisville, Ky.

Opened a brass foundry in Louisville, in November, 1859. (See letter to his children, also letter of Theodore Ahrens, Jr.)

According to family records Theodor Ahrens was a man of powerful physique, over six feet tall, and weighed over 200 pounds.

Married: (1) MARIA CHRISTINE LOHMAN, in Hamburg, Germany, in 1852\*

Maria Christine Lohman was born in Schleswig, Germany on December 5, 1829, and died in Louisville, Ky., December 19, 1885.

Children: 16211, ANNA

Born in Baltimore, December 24, 1855  
Died 1930 in Louisville, Ky.  
Married Adolph E. Mueller

16212, IDA

Born in Baltimore, 1857  
Died 1913  
Married Henry Ohlmann

16213, THEODORE JACOB

Born Sept. 21, 1859, Baltimore, Md.  
Died June 12, 1938, Louisville, Ky.  
Married Elizabeth Pfiester

16214, LOUIS

Born, Sept. 16, 1861  
Died Sept. 30, 1896

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\* According to family records Georg Andreas Theodor Ahrens was married to Maria Christine Lohman November 12, 1849 by C. G. Weyl in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hamburg. This does not check with the date given in his letter to his children.



1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

16215, DORA

Born August 1863 in Louisville, Ky.  
Died young

16216, MINNA

Born Sept. 18, 1865 in Louisville, Ky.  
Died———  
Married Emil Waltenberger

16217, HENRY

Born April 27, 1867 in Louisville, Ky.  
Died June 22, 1886

16218, CHARLES

Born June 27, 1870 in Louisville, Ky.  
Died 1921  
Married: (1) Adeleine Weisenstein  
(2) Mollie Dodson

Married: (2) AMALIA BAASS, \*\*widow of Henry Baass on July  
18, 1886. She died June 3, 1935

---

\*\* Amalia Baass was a large, kindly woman, and all of Maria Christine's grandchildren grew up loving her and calling her "Grandma."

1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Nr. 26

Extract

From the Baptismal Register of the  
Haupt Kirche St. Jacobi  
in Hamburg

Year 1825      Page 251      Nr. 320

On the 23rd of May in the year 1825

JOCHIM ANDREAS AHRENS

native from Wellingsbuttel, Occupation, laborer

Residence: Pferdemarkt (Horse Market) and  
his wife

DOROTHEA ELSABE nee GREFFE

native, from Elmshorn,

legitimate son born on the 28th of April

at 11¼ A.M. in the year 1825,

baptized by Pastor Kinhardt and given the  
name of

GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR

Witnesses were:

1. George Behre
2. Jacob Andreas Waitz from Alhona
3. Dorothea Peterson, born Neffe

Issued in Hamburg April 9, 1924

The accuracy of this extract is attested by the signature and the printed seal.

The keeper of records

John Schulz



1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

Traveling Journeyman's Book  
for the  
Locksmith Journeyman  
GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

Seal

This traveling journeyman's book contains 48 numbered pages  
and costs 4 B1 Cour.

Obtainable at the Institute for Deafmute at Schleswig  
The locksmith-journeyman

GEO. ANDR. THEOD. AHRENS

Native from Hamburg

Military duty — (exempt?)

Description:

Age	— born April 28, 1825
Build	— large, 70"
Hair	— brown*
Forehead	— clear
Eyebrows	— light
Eyes	— light brown
Nose	— straight
Mouth	— glacia
Beard	— blond
Chin	— broad
Face	— oval
Coloring	— healthy

Special marks\_\_\_\_\_

Cash\_\_\_\_\_

Signature written by the holder

T. AHRENS

\* According to his grandchildren, his hair was quite red and he had three red-headed children, Anna, Ida and Theodore. North Germans often have reddish brown hair.

1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

Evidences, certificates, work and conduct reports on which the traveling journeyman's book is issued.

I

Discharge from the 9th Sch. Host. Infant. Bat. on May 16, 1850

II

Certificate of good conduct by the Commando's of the 1 Comp of the 9th Bataillon.

III

Report of the statements made by the owner who had obtained a traveling-journeyman's book in Hamburg on the 18 of October, 1844 and mislaid (lost) it in Aprenrade last year; according to this he was exempt from further military duty in Hamburg in the year 1846 where he had freed himself.

IIII

(blank)

At the request of the locksmith-journeyman

GEORG ANDR. THEOD. AHRENS

from *Hamburg* who from here plans to travel  
over to *Elmshorn*

and who has submitted the necessary evidence for this trip, has through this book received permission for this purpose, and therefore I officially request each and all when he shows this book to let him pass undisturbed. Also, he shall conduct himself according to the here inclosed and printed rules.

*Glickstadt at the Courthouse*  
*on the 16th of May, 1850, recorded*

Signatures of Chief of Police, etc.

Seal

EXTRACT

of the regulations governing the traveling-journeyman traveling in Schleswig and Holstein who obtain their book from Feb. 16, 1830 on, and which contain the rules for their conduct while they are journeying.



I

Every traveling-journeyman must on arrival in a town, present his book to the police authorities who will record the date and also record, if he plans to continue the journey, the next destination. If he does not wish to work in that town, or if there are no workshops for his craft, he may without permit of the police spend 24 hours there. If this is not the case he must at once look for work and if he has not found work within two days he must continue his journey unless the authorities grant him a longer stay.

II

If a journeyman who is working for a Master or for a factory owner who is permitted to employ journeymen, wishes to stop working he then must, whether he wishes to remain in that town or leave it, report to the police and in their presence the Master or factory owner must give a work and conduct certificate which is to be written into the journey book; does the journeyman wish to make a living by other means than his hand craft he must state his intentions to the police authority and show his journey book.

III

A journeyman who has left his work, if he has not meanwhile found work with another master, or if he has not taken the necessary steps for quitting his standing as a journeyman, must at the latest continue his journey in two days unless the police authorities have granted him more time.

IV

Every journeyman must when he changes town arrive at the next destination, if the distance is not greater than four miles, within twenty-four hours and if the distance is greater not later than in two days; if he should be delayed on the road through illness or visits to relatives or other reasons he must prove and the authority must record the reasons of the delay through a letter written by the person in whose house he stayed and which must be indorsed by the authority of the district.

V.

If the journeyman wishes to work for a rural resident who has a permit to employ craftsmen, or to remain in the country for more than two days for any reason, it is his duty to request permission from the local authority and to have their approval registered in the book.

VI

If a journeyman wishes to give up his standing he must hand in his journeyman's book to the police authorities.

VII

A journeyman who breaks any of the above rules shall be punished, unless his offense is punishable through other sentences by a fine of 1-3 Reichstaler, or by a sentence to jail of 1-3 days on bread and water.

VIII

If a journeyman gives his book to somebody to travel on or to identify himself, he shall be sentenced to jail to 2-8 five days sentence on bread and water.

IX

Who forges journeyman's books or uses a forged book receives a sentence of one year in prison.

X

If it should happen that a journeyman who travels in these provinces has not worked in his craft during the last six weeks he must present a statement signed by the authorities that he was prevented from working for just causes or, that he has earned an honest living outside of his craft. If the journeyman is not able to do this he shall be punished according to vagrancy laws, and if he should be an alien the cause should be stated in his book and he shall be transported.

This rule does not apply to masons, carpenters.

XI

Journeyman who beg must be advised that they shall be punished with the applicable punishment. However, if a journeyman can find no work and if he wishes to have money for food he can on presenting his book to the alderman, and if the next town on his route is not farther than three miles



1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

away, he will be entitled to receive a support of 8 & 6 B(?) and if the distance is greater 16 & 6 B. The journeyman can not demand further presents or support.

Prod. to work L. Bargman

Elmshorn, March 21, 1850 (Signature)\_\_\_\_\_

Owner has since been working.

Good to Altona

Police Court in Elmshorn

August 1, 1850

(Seal)

(Signature)\_\_\_\_\_

No. 5549 Prod. to work at policy court

August 2, 1850

Good to

Hamburg

Holder worked here

(Signature)\_\_\_\_\_

Altona, The

June 14, 1851

Police Department

(Seal)

(Signature)\_\_\_\_\_

Holder worked here since the last visa in our employ

Hamburg, Jan. 7, 1854

(Seal)

(Signature)\_\_\_\_\_

No. 2776

By Omnibus to Breman

Stade June 20, 1854

(Seal)

(Signature)\_\_\_\_\_

Good to

City—State of Hamburg

Holder worked here

Hamburg, June 29, 1854

The Police Department

(Seal)

(Signature)\_\_\_\_\_

(End of journeyman book)

1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

CITIZENSHIP PAPERS

1854

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, to wit:

At a District Court of the United States, in and for the Maryland District, begun and held at the City of Baltimore, on the first Tuesday in *September* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

Present, the Honorable William F. Gillet, Judge of Maryland District.

William Meade Addison, Esq., Attorney

John W. Watkind, Esq., Marshal

Thomas Spicer, Clerk

Among other were the following proceedings, to wit:

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the *Ninth* day of *October* in the year aforesaid, *Theodore Ahrens*, a native of *Hamburg* and at present residing in the *City* of *Baltimore* appeared in open Court here, and applied to be admitted to become a Citizen of the United States. And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court here that the said *Theodore Ahrens* was a resident within the United States three years next preceding his arriving at the age of twenty-one years, and that he hath continued to reside therein to the time of his making this application to be admitted a citizen thereof. And it also appearing to the satisfaction of the Court here, that during the said three years of his minority, it was bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States. And it also appearing to the satisfaction of the Court here, upon the testimony of *Henry Winter* that the *Theodore Ahrens* hath continued to reside within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, five years at least, and one year at least immediately preceding this application, within the State of Maryland; that during the said term of five years, he hath conducted himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same. And the said *Theodore Ahrens* having declared an oath, taken in open Court here, that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he doth



1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatever, and particularly all allegiance and fidelity to the *Hanseatic Government*.

The Court here, thereupon admits the said *Theodore Ahrens* to become a citizen of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY:

that the foregoing is a true copy, taken from the Record and proceedings of the District Court aforesaid, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of the said District Court to this Certificate of Naturalization, this *Ninth* day of *October* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

Tho. Spicer

Clerk District Court

1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

LETTER TO HIS CHILDREN

My full name is Georg Andreas Theodor Ahrens but for short I have always written, T. Ahrens.

Born in Hamburg the 28th of April, 1825

My father was Joachim Ahrens

My mother Dorothea Ahrens, born Greve

I visited the public school in Hamburg till I was thirteen years old. I went as an apprentice to a machine factory and worked as an apprentice for four years in several towns and traveled in Germany, Sweden, Norway and Denmark to perfect myself in my trade. In 1846 I had to report for military duty but I bought a substitute. I traveled again in Germany and worked in Hannover, Braunschweig, Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin until 1848 when I entered the Schleswig Holstein Army as a volunteer to help my country get free from Denmark. I then was given my dismissal papers which I have given you.

In 1850 I went to New York where I could find no work and because I had a brother in Baltimore and no money I walked to Baltimore which took fourteen days or longer. I worked here and there for twelve months, as a sailor on Holzskumer Austern Boat, went to the woods to chop wood, went fishing, helped load ships till I finally got work at Ross Winans Machine Factory and became well known in Baltimore. In 1852 my brother Joachim went to Hamburg and I went with him and there I met the mother of all my dear children and married her in Hamburg. We left from Bremen in the summer of 1853 for Baltimore where I got a job as a toolmaker in a Brass Foundry and where I had the opportunity to learn the brass business. I stayed till 1858 in the same factory where I had become a foreman.

In November 1858 I went to Louisville and found employment at the foundry of Barbaraux and Snaden. In November 1859 I opened a business where I first was brass founder and finisher in person. My three oldest children Anna, Ida and Theodor were born in Baltimore. Five children were born in Louisville but two of them died. In 1861 I moved to Market Street at Jackson. In 1869 I wanted to see my old mother again and to see Hamburg again. At this time I took H. Ott as a partner. We kept on enlarging our business and went into wholesale Plumbing and



1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

Steamfitting materials and began manufacturing Brass and Iron — and got ahead very well till the year 1885 my dear wife and mother of my children suddenly died from a stroke.

In the year 1886 I married my present wife Amalia Baass, widow of Henry Baass. The times when we became the Standard Company are well known to you because you were in business then.

Politically from the first day that I landed in Baltimore I became a Republican which I still am. Should I have forgotten anything please add it to this. Greetings to all your brothers and sisters and friends.

Your father

T. Ahrens

P. S. Since 1854 I have been a member of the Turner Bund, first in Baltimore, then in Louisville. I am now a member of the Louisville Liederkrantz. I am a member of Mt. Zion Lodge 147, Masonic Order.

Dear Theodor, I have received your report of Ahrens and Ott Manufacturing and thank you. It is a good one. T. A.

1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

Copies of letters regarding early residence in Baltimore, Maryland:

STANDARD SANITARY MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Baltimore, Maryland

March 8, 1938

Mr. Theodore E. Mueller, First Vice President,  
Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company,  
1541 S. Seventh Street,  
Louisville, Kentucky.

Dear Sir:

We have had some correspondence with reference to locating the residence where Mr. Theodore Ahrens was born.

Last Friday afternoon, I was in Washington and went through the Records at the Census Department and in the records of 1858-59, covering Ward 15, Baltimore City, there is the following:

Ahrens, T.—Blacksmith  
3# House's Court  
Dwelling: 94 S. Sharp Street

I don't know what Mr. Theodore Ahrens, Sr's., occupation was at that time and request that you advise me if you think this is the proper party.

I feel that we are on the right track, however, you will notice that instead of the residence being on House's Court, this was the place of business, whereas the dwelling was at 94 S. Sharp Street.

After hearing from you, I will investigate the matter further, endeavoring to locate the actual building because the Wards in Baltimore have been changed and renumbered, also, we cannot take it for granted that the 94 Sharp Street of 1858 is the same number today.

Yours very truly,  
Jas. F. Toy  
(signed) Jas. F. Toy  
Manager



1621. GEORG ANDREAS THEODOR AHRENS

STANDARD SANITARY MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Louisville, Kentucky

March 10, 1938

Mr. Theodore Ahrens, Chairman of Board,  
Standard Sanitary Mfg. Co.,  
836 East Broadway,  
Louisville, Kentucky.

Copy—Mrs. Emil Waltenberger

Dear Mr. Ahrens:

Sometime ago in a conversation with you, you told me that you were born in House's Court, Baltimore, but that you had been unable to locate this court on your various trips to Baltimore.

I mentioned this to Mr. Toy, and he suggested that he investigate the matter. We are now in receipt of the attached letter from Mr. Toy, stating that in looking through the records of the Census Department for the years 1858-59, he finds a Theodore Ahrens, Blacksmith, registered as doing business at #3 House's Court, and that his residence is registered as #94 South Sharp Street.

We believe that we are on the right track and I will write Mr. Toy to follow through along these lines. On my next trip to Baltimore, I might be able to find this place.

This will also confirm our conversation regarding the brief history of your father, which you state that you have compiled. I would be very glad to have this for my files.

Yours very truly,  
(signed) Theo. E. Mueller  
First Vice-President

1622. JOACHIM N. AHRENS

Born about 1827 (?) in Hamburg, according to family record written by his brother, Theodor Ahrens, Joachim N. Ahrens lived for a time in Baltimore, Maryland. Went back to Hamburg in 1852 with Theodor Ahrens. Family records say that Joachim N. Ahrens later went to Australia and trace of him was lost.

Married: SOPHIA HILL, from Hanover, November 12, 1849 in Baltimore, Maryland

Copy of marriage record:

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

It is hereby certified that MR. JOACHIM N. AHRENS, from Hamburg, and MISS SOPHIA HILL, from Hanover, solemnly and lawfully on November 12 A.D. 1849 entered into the state of holy matrimony.

Witnesses

Albt. Single

& wife

C. G. Weyl

Pastor of the Ev. Luth. Dreisinigkts Church  
in Baltimore



1623. LUCIE AHRENS

Born———. Mentioned in brother Adolph's letter dated October 24, 1861. Evidently had a son, Carl, also mentioned in brother's letter.

1624. ADOLPH AHRENS \*

Born———, probably in Hamburg, Germany. Living in 1861 when he wrote the letter on page 5 to his mother and sister from Camp Hunter's Chapel, Virginia as a member of the Twenty-Ninth Regiment New York Volunteers.

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\* Adolph Ahrens was killed in action in the Civil War.



16211 ANNA AHRENS \*

Born December 24, 1855 in Baltimore, Maryland. Died  
1930 in Louisville, Kentucky

Married: ADOLPH E. MUELLER Born 1852 in Berlin, Germany,  
Died 1935, Louisville, Ky.

Children: 162111, THEODORE

Born April 3, 1885

Died

Married June 10, 1916 Pattie Johnston

162112, BERTHA

Born 1887

Died 1923

Married Kurt Krafft, Born 1883 died  
1946

Children:

1621121, ANNE

Married Theodore  
Broecker

1621122, KURT

Married Carolyn Frey  
Oct. 25, 1941

162113, MARIE

Born June 1, 1892

Died

Married: (1) Richard A. Wathen,  
Feb. 14, 1914

Children:

1621131, RICHARD A. WATHEN

Married: (2) Harry Nelson, June 1,  
1937

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\* Anna Ahrens Mueller was never known to say an unkind word about anyone. She was said to have the sweetest personality of all the Ahrens brothers and sisters. To know her was to love her. She had red hair.

16212. IDA AHRENS \*

Born 1857 in Baltimore, Maryland

Died 1913

Married: HENRY OHLMANN, died 1941

Children: None

Legally adopted Pauline Ahrens, daughter of brother,  
Charles Ahrens

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\* Ida Ahrens Ohlmann was a very charitable person, an able executive and a family leader. She possessed a man's mind, unusual in her day. She was tall, had a fine physique and red-blonde hair.



16213. THEODORE JACOB AHRENS

Born September 21, 1859, in Baltimore, Maryland. Family moved to Louisville, Kentucky, when he was two months old. Died June 12, 1938, Louisville, Kentucky

Married: ELIZABETH PFIESTER, on April 30, 1885, Louisville, Ky. Elizabeth Pfiester was born December 10, 1858 in Louisville and died February 10, 1940 in Louisville.

Children: 162131, ELSIE

Born March 12, 1886

Died———

Married: (1) Edward J. Zinsmeister, June 2, 1909. Divorced.

Children:

1621311, EDWARD. Born July 8, 1914. Name legally changed from Zinsmeister to Ahrens on September 29, 1937

Married: (1) July 13, 1940 Katrine Heitger (Divorced)

Married: (2) August 27, 1949 Mildred Anne Brown

1621312, ANNE ELIZABETH (BETTY)

Born July 12, 1916

Married: October 3, 1936 James Dudley Russell

Children:

16213121, DIANE Born January 6, 1942

16213122, CLARK Born December 12, 1943

Married: (2) Karl H. Lang, May 19, 1937

16213. THEODORE JACOB AHRENS \*

162132, MILDRED

Born February 18, 1892

Died January 19, 1919

Married February 14, 1914, Edgar  
Howard

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\* Theodore Jacob Ahrens was the smallest of the four Ahrens brothers. He was six feet tall and had red hair.



16213. THEODORE JACOB AHRENS

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

In the year 1859 on the 21st of September,  
in Louisville, Ky., \* was born,  
and baptized the 8th of February, 1867

THEODOR JACOB

The parents are: Theodor Ahrens and  
Marie, born Lohman (Lohmann)

The godparents are:

Theodor Ahrens

Jacob Friedr. Gelhaar

This is certified with the seal of the church  
and by the signature of the pastor of the  
Evangelisch, protest

St. Lukas Church in Louisville

Chs. A. Hermann

MARRIAGE RECORD

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

Be it remembered that heretofore on the 30th day of April, 1885, Theodore J. Ahrens obtained from the Clerk of the County Court for the County and State aforesaid, a license to marry Lizzie Pfiester and they were married in the City of Louisville, County of Jefferson, and State of Kentucky, on the 30th day of April, 1885, by W. B. Hoke in the presence of Theodore Ahrens, Sr. and Louis Ahrens. All of which appears at large by reference to the Marriage Register on file in my office as Clerk of said Court.

In testimony whereof and that the foregoing is a true and perfect abstract as taken from the record aforesaid, I hereto set my hand at Louisville this 16th day of December, 1885.

Geo. H. Webb, Clerk

by Wm. D. Reed, D. C.

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\* Note: This notation is evidently an error since Theodore Ahrens was born in Baltimore, Maryland, just prior to his father's moving to Louisville.

16213. THEODORE JACOB AHRENS

Family notes written by Theodore Ahrens sometime between 1923 and 1927.

My full name is Theodore Jacob Ahrens, but I have never used my middle name. The business world and my friends know me as Theodore Ahrens.

I was born in the City of Baltimore, Maryland, on the 21st of September, 1859.

The family moved to Louisville, Kentucky, within two months thereafter and that city has been my home ever since.

My father's name was George Andreas Theodore Ahrens. The maiden name of my mother was Maria Christine Lohman.

Married in Hamburg, Germany, November 12th, 1849. Name of preacher, C. G. Weyl. Church Evangelical Lutheran.

Both my parents came from the Northern part of Germany, my father being born in Hamburg, my mother in Schleswig. They came to America in 1854 as poor immigrants, landing from a sailing vessel on the dock at Baltimore. I well remember the story my father often told his children in later years about the trip's taking thirty days, and that he carried the entire family possessions off the ship on his back in a well made linen chest of three drawers, which is still in possession of the family. It was more than ample to take care of everything my parents possessed at that time. My father married in Bremen at the age of 30 and immediately took ship for the new world.

His trade was that of a Locksmith, which in those days meant an all around skilled mechanic that could work at the forge, the vise, or the lathe and handle all kinds of metals. He had traveled extensively in Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden before coming to U. S. He took part in the War of 1849, and for a short period served in the Home Guards, organized for the defense of Louisville, Kentucky, when General Bragg invaded Kentucky during the War of Secession. He was a man of powerful physique and immense strength; very bluff and plain spoken, democratic in his ideas and a great admirer of the American system of Government. To illustrate this, let me say that the first pictures with which I became acquainted as a little boy were the large size portraits of Washington, Franklin, Lincoln and Grant which filled the walls of my father's bedroom. The history and achievements of these men were frequently related to me by



my Father. The first book of any importance that I read and which fired my youthful imagination was a History of the United States.

My Father's religious sentiments and philosophy of life could be covered by the Golden Rule. He had only an ordinary education, but plenty of good common sense. He was one of the best mechanics I ever knew, and it was due to his practical knowledge and ability that the foundation of the business he established was securely laid.

Being German, he of course loved to sing and was a member of the Louisville Liederkrantz for many years. His favorite statesman was Abraham Lincoln. He most enjoyed the reading of history, a trait which I must have inherited from him. Darwin and Haeckel on Evolution were given me to read while still in my boyhood days. Ingersoll was also a familiar name in our home.

You ask me what my father wanted to be and why, his prophecies about my success in life, etc. The answer to that is that he put me to work in the Brass Foundry at thirteen years of age and *hoped* he could make a good mechanic out of me; my wages were two dollars fifty cents per week — the rest was up to me. But my boyhood ambitions as to my future career were rather vague and indefinite. I do remember, however, that at one time I wanted to become a North Pole explorer, and later on a Steamboat Captain. These prospects were seriously discussed with my mother. I do not recall that she gave me any encouragement.

My first trip of any importance was to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. I was then about seventeen years of age. I paid my own expenses and enjoyed that wonderful show greatly. I made the trip with my Father and a friend of his. I was duly assessed one-third of the entire expense of the trip, which I paid from my savings.

My father's favorite axiom was "Every tub must stand on its own bottom."

It is to the wise counsel, help and encouragement given me by my Mother, to her broad and generous spirit and her splendid character that I owe a large part of whatever I have accomplished in life. Born in the bitterest poverty, the daughter of a village tailor in Schleswig, she often cried herself to sleep from hunger. She was large hearted and kind, very little education, but a constant influence for good to her children.



I cannot look back with much pleasure on my boyhood days. My Father was just beginning to establish himself in business. His family was large and everybody had to work. When school ended and vacation time came my Father put me to work in the foundry. I well remember how when only ten years old, I was firing the steam boiler that furnished the power for the little plant on Market Street near Jackson (in Louisville), how I jumped the fence to play ball in the adjoining lot, forgetting all about the boiler and nearly blowing up the entire plant. When I again thought of my job I went back over the fence and found my Father busily engaged in raking the fire out from under the boiler, the water had gone below the danger line, and the index hand on the steam gauge also. My Father told me to *run*, explaining the boiler would or might blow up any moment. I felt so guilty and conscience stricken that I refused, saying to myself that if my Father and the old boiler went, I would go, too. However, we got through all right, but this taught me a lesson I never forgot, namely, "Stick to the job and do your duty no matter how unpleasant it is."

The Public Schools of Louisville were my only opportunity for an education. My first schoolteacher was a woman, but the teacher who made the greatest impression on me was Mr. Cross, who at that time was teaching in Walnut Street Graded School, and incidently he gave me the most severe thrashing of my school life. In later years we became great friends, but he never liked to be reminded of this occasion. I excelled in Geography, History and Arithmetic, and I liked these best. I went through the common school grades, successfully passing the examinations for High School, but never entered, as I went to work in my Father's Brass Foundry at thirteen, and have continued in that industry ever since. I do not believe, however, that any boy should be put to work this early, but that he should be given an opportunity to continue his studies until he is at least sixteen years of age. The work that I did between the ages of thirteen and sixteen did not amount to anything and was of no assistance to me in later years.

It may be of interest to state here that for years the family bath tub consisted of one of my Mother's wash tubs, in which the children were successively lathered, scrubbed and cleansed. There were eight children in our family, four boys and four girls. My mother believed in keeping the family together in the evening. We all sat around the one light that was allowed to shine over the family table where we read or studied, and in all

of which my Mother was interested and encouraged us. My sisters were musical. They played, and we all joined in the singing. While I have no musical education whatever, this gave me an appreciation of good music which I have always retained.

The first real bath tub our family possessed was an old copper-lined tub set up in the wood shed, there being no room in the house. A bathroom sixty years ago was a luxury few people could afford. The first real bathroom we had was put in a two-story frame house that my Father owned on Preston Street near Main Street. I was then about sixteen years of age.

As a boy and for many years thereafter, I took an active interest in athletic sports of all kinds. I attended the gymnasium at the old Turner Hall on Jefferson Street from the time I was eight years old, and continued to take active exercise and physical training until thirty-five. I am still a member of the 'Turners' organization and believe firmly from personal experience in the old axiom, "A sound mind in a sound body."

In these sports I was a leader and proved this in many athletic contests we had. From thirteen to nineteen I worked in my Father's brass plant, first in foundry, later at the lathe. When I was nineteen, I considered myself a fair mechanic, good enough to ask my Father for a rise (raise?) in wages from one dollar twenty-five cents to one dollar fifty cents per day. He refused. I quit; went East and after three months in a Brass Plant at Haydenville, Massachusetts, secured work in New York City as a brass finisher where I earned from four dollars to four dollars fifty cents per day. Leaving home and convincing myself I could stand on my own feet, gave me self-confidence — also experience. I spent two very happy years in Haydenville and New York, returning to Louisville no richer in pocket, but wiser in experience. At that time the firm of Ahrens and Ott was just embarking into the wholesale and had moved down to Market near Fifth. They disposed of their plumbing business by selling it to William H. Welker, John Ryan and myself. Approximate value of the business was two thousand dollars, sold to us on credit. We paid for it in eighteen months. That was the beginning of my business career. Six years later when the business of Ahrens and Ott was beginning to assume larger proportions, I was taken in and elected Treasurer and General Manager of the newly organized Ahrens and Ott Manufacturing Company. This was in 1886. This date really marks the beginning of my active career as an executive.



### 16213. THEODORE JACOB AHRENS

Ahrens and Ott wanted me to go to work for them on a salary. I refused. and demanded that they sell me a stock interest, at the same time doing the same thing for three other men whom I considered men of ability and valuable, and who were entitled to share in the profits. My Father and Henry Ott finally agreed to this. Taking these men in as stockholders was really the first step we made toward stock ownership by employees. It established the principle and proved the value of it. Year after year we saw how a common interest was of mutual advantage to both the individual and the company, and has finally resulted in building up the great organization of which I am today the head.

The plumbing industry was just beginning to grow. We decided to add the manufacture of cast iron soil pipe and fittings to our line. We built a small plant on Sixteenth and Arbegust Streets. Within three years this plant proved to be too small and we purchased six acres of ground at our present location, Sixth and Shipp Streets. Our growth was steady. In 1895 we added the manufacture of cast iron enameled sanitary ware, a line which now has become the most important single item of our production.

In 1899 Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company was organized, and began business on January 1st, 1900. I was elected its President and have served in that capacity ever since. The leaders in the industry realized the great possibilities before them. They believed that a large, powerful organization with ample capital and manufacturing facilities was needed. And so we organized this Company. We encouraged our employees from the beginning to become partners in the enterprise by arranging to sell them stock on liberal terms. This policy has been most successful. Over three thousand of the ten thousand employees of the company are stockholders. These men occupy all kinds of positions in the manufacturing plants, branch houses, sales office, traveling, and in the general offices—in fact in all departments, and form the backbone of the Company.

While not a member of any religious denomination, my favorite books are the Bible, which I consider one of the greatest historical books ever written, Gibbons Decline and Fall of Roman Empire, Emerson and Dickens. My favorite actor was Richard Mansfield. I no longer take any active interest in any sort of sports, but spend my holidays in travel — when not traveling, in Southern California.

My advice to young men who are ambitious to succeed in business is this:

Obtain a good Grammar and High School Education.  
Consider well what you are best adapted for, then train for it.  
Don't work by the clock — give the best there is in you.  
Believe firmly in yourself and your undertaking.  
Your ability to co-operate and work with others will to a great  
extent influence your career.  
Save something each year — never spend your entire income.

I have always believed in the Protective Tariff and a strong centralized government. I have no religious affiliations, nor do I take an active interest in fraternal organizations.

I was a Director and President of Louisville Board of Trade  
Director and President of Pittsburgh Employers Association  
Member of Pendennis Club, Louisville  
Member of Duquesne Club, Pittsburgh  
Member of Los Angeles Athletic Club, Los Angeles

The basic idea upon which the Standard Sanitary Manufacturing Company was formed was that by combining the capital and best brains and manufacturing ability in the sanitary line, it would be possible for us to manufacture and distribute plumbing fixtures at a price so low that we could put them within the reach of people of limited means. As a result the bathroom and kitchen sink today form a part of the modest home of the wage earner as well as the more expensive home of the rich. It is well known that the people of no other nation enjoy the comforts of modern sanitation like the American people. To have helped to bring this about has been a great satisfaction to me. "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." No other people appreciate this old adage like we do. My travels through Europe and the Orient have convinced me that if the benefits of sanitation, which means good sewers and good plumbing, could be shared by the people of other nations, it would go a long way toward making them contented, and this would be a better world to live in.

Co-operation and loyalty are our watchwords.



16216. MINNA AHRENS \*

Born September 18, 1865

Died

Married: EMIL WALTENBERGER on June 24, 1887

Born 1861

Died 1927

Children: 162161, META

Born Sept. 30, 1888

Married Frank F. Doak, July 22, 1914

Children:

1621611, FRANK DOAK, JR.

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\* Minna Ahrens Waltenberger is a tall, finely built woman. She possesses a keen sense of humor.

16218. CHARLES AHRENS \*

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, June 27, 1870

Died 1921

Married: (1) ADELEINE WEISENSTEIN, Born 1871

Died 1899

Children: 162181, PAULINE

Born 1898

Died 1943

Legally Adopted by Henry and Ida  
Ohlmann

Married: (1) Robert Burgess

Children:

1621811, POLLY

Married: (2) Harold Johnson

Married: (2) MOLLIE DOTSON, Born 1873

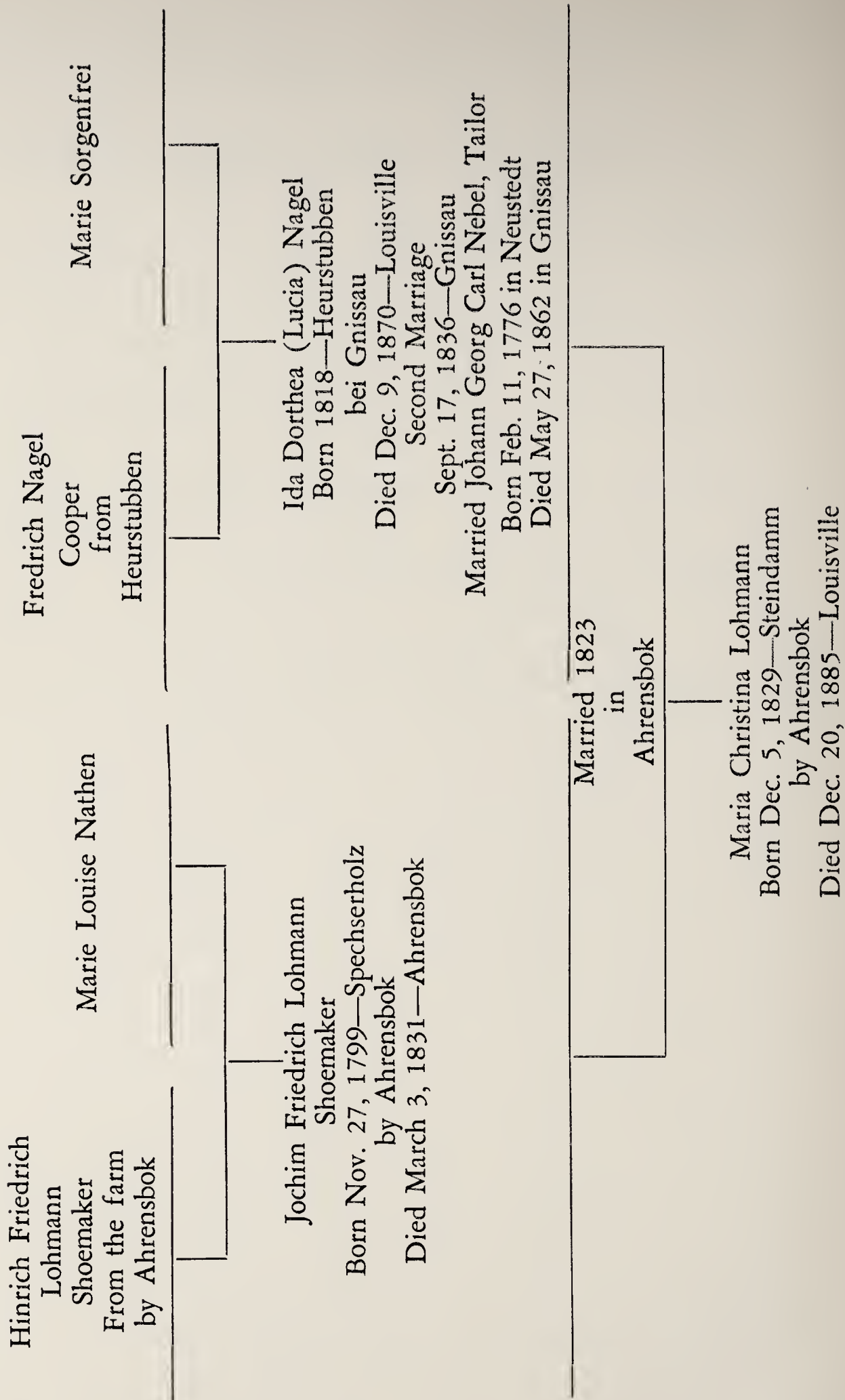
Died 1950

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\* Charles Ahrens was widely read, and a natural comedian. He had only one enemy — John Barleycorn.



# THE ANCESTRY OF MARIA CHRISTINA LOHMANN



## PFIESTER FAMILY

### I. PETER PFIESTER

Born  
Bavaria, Germany  
October 14, 1832  
Died  
Louisville, Kentucky  
May 10, 1879

### ELIZABETH PFIESTER

Born  
Ingenheim near Bingen  
on the Rhein  
Germany  
September 24, 1838  
Died  
Louisville, Kentucky  
January 30, 1912

Peter Pfiester came to the United States about 1855; Elizabeth, about 1853. They were married April 10, 1856 in Louisville.

Peter Pfiester operated a cooper shop in Louisville, Kentucky, near the old Galt House. He became a United States citizen, Louisville, Ky., January 9, 1856.

## CHILDREN

### 11. ELIZABETH, Born December 10, 1858

Died February 10, 1940

Married April 30, 1885 Theodore Ahrens

Children:

111. Elsie

Married: First, Edward Zinsmeister

Second, Karl H. Lang

112. Mildred

Married: Edgar Howard

### 12. GEORG

Children:

121. Corinne

122. Marguerite

123. Arthur

### 13. MOLLIE Married Fred Koster

Children:

131. Lee

### 14. CARRIE, Born April 2, 1862

Married Theodore Tafel

Born Jan. 3, 1858

Died Nov. 28, 1942

Children:

141. Carl G.

142. Theodore





FAMILY NOTES

*Karl H Lang died*



## FAMILY NOTES

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